

# otaku

otakuasia.com  
July-August 2016  
Php 100

HOT ANIME: BUNGO STRAY DOGS

Inside:  
COSPLAY.PH  
CCY 2015  
page 42



かばんり  
甲鉄城のカバネリ  
KABANERI OF THE IRON FORTRESS

SCHOOL ISSUE | SCHOOL ISSUE | SCHOOL ISSUE | SCHOOL ISSUE | SCHOOL ISSUE | SCHOOL ISSUE | SCHOOL ISSUE

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# Table of Contents

## 学校 SCHOOL ISSUE

- 08 - Editorial
- 10 - Inbox
- 14 - News: Encantadia 2016  
Final Fantasy XV VS  
Brotherhood: Final Fantasy XV
- 18 - Live Action  
-Fullmetal Alchemist
- 20 - Otakugoodies: Cospray
- 22 - Hooked Book: Instant Japanese
- 24 - Just Japan: School Bags
- 26 - Seiyuu's Mic: Kensho Ono
- 28 - Hooked Book: Kyoto and Nara  
Tuttle Travel Pack Guide
- 30 - Bento Box: Rice 5 Ways
- 32 - Here To Play: Hot Mobile Games
- 36 - Sinnichi: Japanese Design Today 100



38 - Art of Otaku  
Little Things PH



72 - Cover Feature  
Kotetsujo no Kabaneri

## 42 - Cosplay.PH - CCY 2015 Feature



78 - Hot Anime  
Bungo Stray Dogs



86 - Hot Anime  
Sousei no Onmyougi

- 56 - LearN: A is B
- 58 - Reviews
  - Bakuon!!
  - Boku no Hero Academia
  - Sakamoto desu ga?
  - Netoge no Yome wa Onna no Ko Janai to Omotta?
  - Tanaka-kun wa Itsumo Kedaruge
  - Orange
- 70 - Character Bio
  - Izuku Midoriya
- 80 - Manga
  - Hoshizuku Drop
  - Are you Alice?
  - Until death do us part
  - DOGS: Bullets and Carnage
  - Crayon Days: Daikirai na Aitsu
  - Mob Psycho 100
- 88 - Requests
  - Boku wa Tomodachi ga Sukunai
  - Kuragahime
- 90 - Bitz: Character Creation 101
- 94 - O-kun Tales
- 96 - #Throwback: School Rumble

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After that whirlwind of a summer, whether or not your school year has moved, we are now back to school. If not school, good job on your job.

Well, this is our School Issue and of course we have Kabaneri of the Iron Fortress as cover feature. Inside we have a feature on the ever cute school bags of Japan. These bags offer functionality and design that we just love! We also have two Tuttle books that you will enjoy: Kyoto and Nara Travel Pack and Instant Japanese because with all these seat sales, going to Japan is just made easier. We hope to travel with these books soon.

We are also featuring an exhibit by the Japan Foundation Manila, Metropolitan Museum of Manila and Embassy of Japan in the Philippines: Japanese Design Today 100. Our Manabimasu lesson is the promised sentence construction using "A is B". The spring anime season was so much fun we have the best recommendations!

Our senior contributor, Reikisha wrote a tutorial on character creation. They also asked us how the OA team visualized the mascots, Ochibi-sama and Sochii-kun. Well, the answer to that is-

-a secret.

-Heloise "Kent" Diamante

PS. We's like to thank everyone who came to our event, O-kun Fiesta 2. If you have a suggestion for next year, please feel free to PM us on Facebook or email us on our gmail. Thank you again and see you next year!

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**-Cy-Chi**

Hello Otaku Asia!  
Share ko lang po ang  
digital fan art ko kay  
Megumi Tadokoro, sana  
ma feature po hehe

Love na love ko po ang  
magazines nyo at nag  
cocollect ako nang  
monthly issues nyo  
hehe. May 8 na ako .

KEEP UP THE HOOD  
WORK OTAKU ASIA !

THANKS PO SA MGA  
AWESOME ISSUES NYO  
EVERY MONTH

Konnichiwa!

I'm Loureanne Halasan and what I  
wanted to say is I've always loved  
Otaku Asia. So far, I've collected 5  
mags. Can I also request "Brothers  
Conflict" as your next cover.

Arigatou gosaimasu! Keep up the good  
work, Otaku Asia. Ganbatte! ( ^w^ )

**-Lourie H**

**-Sofia Bertolano**

Konichiwa Otaku Asia! I  
really really really like your  
mags, so amazing. Thanks  
for making it enjoyable and  
making us happy, you guys  
rock! I hope you'll feature  
Ao haru ride or date a live  
next time and btw I want to  
share my drawing of  
Kurumi Tokizaki from Date  
A Live ^\_\_\_\_^



Hi there! This is my first time writing a  
fan mail and I hope it gets published. ^^  
Anyway, thank you guys for very  
informative and entertaining stuffs  
featured in every issue. Your magazine  
keeps me up-to-date with newly  
released animes and mangas.

May I request that you'll have a  
throwback issue? Like featuring  
old-school animes like Slam Dunk,  
Flame of Recca, Gundam Wing, Fushigi  
Yuugi and the likes? I really miss those  
animes that I grew up with. ^^

Thank you so much! I also attached one  
of my fanarts and I hope you'll like it.

**-Faith Layosa**



Please put Love Live School Idol  
Project!, onegai!!!! ...I will really  
appreciate it!, and Love Live Poster...

Hehe gomen for so many requests!, and  
please make a Character Bio for Maki  
Nishikino and Kirigaya Suguha onegai  
desu!, and I hope that you'll make one...

Thank you! Arigato!

**-Pamela**

Hi Otaku Asia,

I'm an avid collector and fan of your  
magazine. Hope you can feature my  
drawing on your next issue.

Thank you! More Power!

**-Owen Dioquino**





Hello OAM!!

Here's my drawing Kaori Miyazono from shigatsu wa kimi no uso Hope you like it!

P.S to all of my friends in La Verdad Christian College!! Hi guys!! Thanks OAM!! God bless and more power

**-Karen Garcia**



Hi Otaku Asia.

First time ko po magpasa ng fan art. Chamo Rosso po , from Rokka no Yuusha Na-engganyo po ako sa magazine nyo ang ganda po kasi .

MORE COOL MAGS TO COME , iintayin ko po yung next issue nyo... Hue hue hue,,

**-Bossun**



Got Requests? Fanmail to shoutout?  
Fanart to showoff?  
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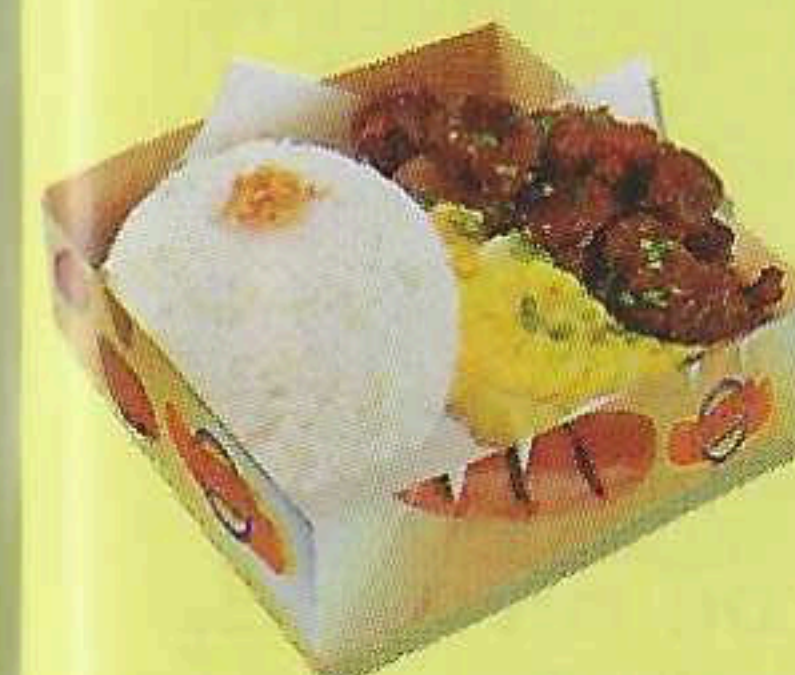
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## NEWS



## Avisala Encantadiks! Encantadia 2016

Our long wait is over. Encantadia will be having a comeback this July 2016 in the Philippine Television. We will witness once again our favorite Sang'gres Pirena, Amihan, Alena and Danaya with their adventures together with the awesome setting and effects. The visual effects last 2005 is already awesome; what more this 2016?

Encantadia 2016 will be showing under GMA Telebabad block replacing Poor Señorita. It will be also available Worldwide via GMA Pinoy TV. It will be a 'requel' (retelling sequel) of the 2005 series. Encantadia 2016 is directed by Mark Reyes and the lead visual artist is Noel Flores.

Incase if your wondering if it will be having a same story, it will follow the 2005 version on the first part but as the story goes on, the focus will be different. Untold stories and facts will be revealed. In the 2005 series, the realm of Encantadia features four kingdoms: Hathoria, Lireo, Saphiro and Adamya but in the requel, there will be only 3 Kingdoms. Adamya will be a territory since no one is leading there. It has also been revealed that the 4 places is only 1/4 of the whole realm. Avila, where the Mulawins live is now part of the map.

Some of the cast of Encantadia 2016 made an appearance last June 11-12, 2016 at TOYCON 2016 held at Function Halls 1-4. They revealed the unannounced casts plus they had a free meet & greet ang autograph signing to all TOYCON 2016 attendees. We also get to see the casts wear their costumes; even the 4 Sang'gres.

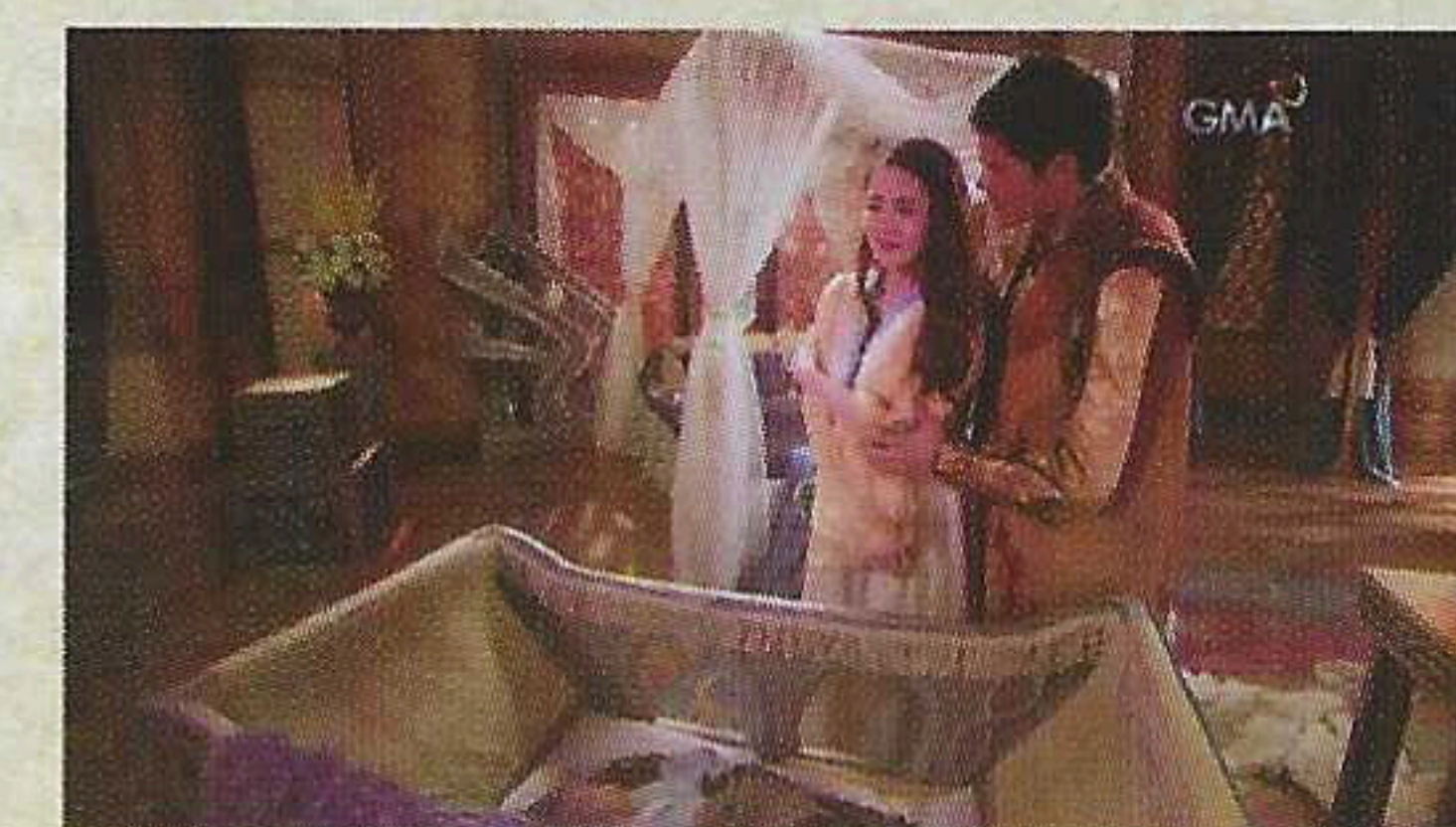
### 2005 CAST

Dawn Zulueta  
Ynang Reyna Minea  
Richard Gomez  
Haring Raquim  
Dingdong Dantes  
Ybarro/Ybrahim  
Sunshine Dizon  
Pirena  
Iza Calzado  
Amihan  
Karylle  
Alena  
Diana Zubiri  
Danaya  
Pen Medina  
Hagorn

### 2016 CAST

Marian Rivera  
Ynang Reyna Minea  
Dingdong Dantes  
Haring Raquim  
Ruru Madrid  
Ybarro/Ybrahim  
Glaiza de Castro  
Pirena  
Kylie Padilla  
Amihan  
Gabbi Garcia  
Alena  
Sanya Lopez  
Danaya  
John Arcilla  
Hagorn

Dingdong Dantes will be returning, playing the role of Haring Raquim together with her wife Marian Rivera as Ynang Reyna Minea. It has also been revealed that Sunshine Dizon will be a part of the



2016 requel once again. Her role will be revealed soon.

With the trailers being showed, we can all see and feel the nostalgia of the series we watched 10 years ago and its better. The soundtrack "Tadhana" by Bayang Barrios being played together with the trailer makes it more exciting to watch this July. The costumes and props being used in the series never failed to amaze me. The quality is still there and better. For those who went to TOYCON 2016 and visited their booth, you will know what I'm talking about (the costume and props displayed during the event can be touched and examined).

As the showing of Encantadia 2016 approaches, we couldn't help but wonder whom and where the new story will revolve within Encantadia. They've hinted last TOYCON 2016 that since Avila is now a part of the Encantadia map, Mulawins might show up, they are just waiting for the go signal. They've also made new costume designs for them. With these things, I'm sure that streets won't be busy during its timeslot; everyone is watching inside their homes.





# BROTHERHOOD FINAL FANTASY XV

In the world of Eos, a world similar to modern Earth, lies countries which are under the rule of the empire of Niflheim. An exception to these ruled countries is the kingdom of Lucis and even though they agreed on a peace negotiation, the empire of Niflheim continues its assault to attain the kingdom. Driven from his hometown during the invasion, the crown prince of the Lucian throne, Noctis Lucis Caelum is on the run with his companions and they plan to drive away the forces of Niflheim and rescue the crystal from their control. Though before these plans take into action, what happened to the group?

Brotherhood: Final Fantasy XV is a six episode web animated series that is part of the Final Fantasy XV Universe. This serves as the prequel to the events of the upcoming Square Enix game, Final Fantasy XV. The series is directed by Soichi Masui with animation by A-1 Pictures. The first episode was released back at March 2016 while the second one is released this June. The events of Brotherhood takes place during Noctis and his companion's journey to meet Lunafreya and within these events feature the backstories of the members and how they all became friends. With this, the developer's aim was to allow fans to familiarize with the characters first before playing Final Fantasy XV itself. The first five episodes can be viewed on the official Final Fantasy XV YouTube channel but the sixth episode will be exclusive in the disc that is included in the game's Ultimate Collector's Edition.

Final Fantasy XV Universe is composed of more titles other than Brotherhood such as Platinum Demo - Final Fantasy XV which is a prologue episode that takes place during Noctis' childhood and serves as a demo of the game and Kingsglaive: Final Fantasy XV which is an upcoming CGI movie that takes place during the events of Final Fantasy XV. These stories told in the Universe is not necessary to watch to enjoy the main game but the hype it gives the fans makes these as something to really look forward to seeing as we wait for the game's release.

Get to know more of Noctis, Ignis, Prompto, Gladiolus, Lunafreya and the rest of the cast of one of the most anticipated games of 2016 through tuning on Brotherhood: Final Fantasy XV!





# Live-Action Fullmetal Alchemist is a Go

by kandy

Announced last May by Warner Brothers, a live-action adaptation of **Fullmetal Alchemist** manga by Hiromu Arakawa is set to air in Japan in winter 2017. Directing the film is Fumihiko Sori and stars Hey! Say! JUMP Ryōsuke Yamada as Edward Elric, Tsubasa Honda as Winry Rockbell and Dean Fujioka as Roy Mustang. Other cast include:

Fumiyo Kohinata as General Hakuro  
 Ryuta Sato as Maes Hughes  
 Misako Renbutsu as Riza Hawkeye  
 Natsuna as Maria Ross  
 Natsuki Harada as Gracia Hughes  
 Yo Oizumi as Shou Tucker  
 Jun Kunimura as Doctor Marco  
 Yasuko Matsuyuki as Lust  
 Kanata Hongou as Envy  
 Shinji Uchiyama as Gluttony  
 Kenjiro Ishimaru as Father Cornello

Despite an all Japanese cast, Sori said, "I want to create a style that follows the original manga as much as possible. The cast is entirely Japanese, but the cultural background is Europe. However, it's a style that doesn't represent a specific race or country."



^ Italian newspaper La Nazione's stills show the film's shooting in the Italian town of Volterra, and show lead actor Ryōsuke Yamada in costume as his character Edward Elric.



Widely popular in the Philippines, **Fullmetal Alchemist** started as a manga in 2001 in Square Enix's Monthly Shonen Gangan. The series inspired the **Fullmetal Alchemist** anime series in 2003 and it's sequel film, **Fullmetal Alchemist: The Movie - Conqueror of Shamballa** in 2005.

## Valentines day 2017 is the day for Persona 5

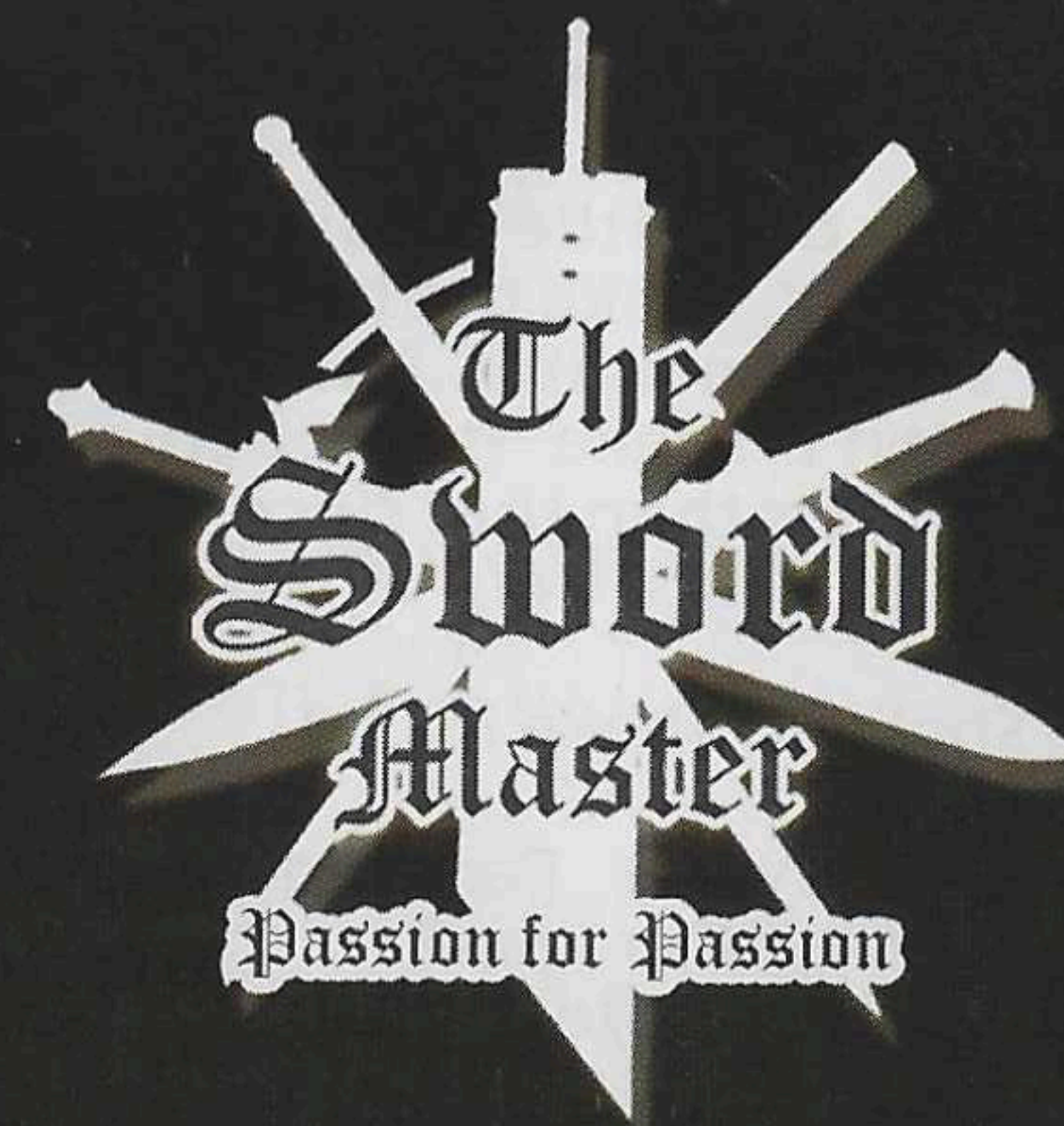
by kandy

Pre-orders has opened in the US for the PlayStation 4 game, **Persona 5**. The \$89.99 box will contain a soundtrack CD, 4 inch Morgana plush, 64-page hardcover artbook, steelbook and a school bag.

The PlayStation 3 version will cost US\$49.99. Take your heart!



where  
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Contact Person: Miko Garcia Twitter: /TheSw0rdMaster  
 Facebook: /TheSwordMasters Contact # 0935 665 6760





OTAKUGOODIES

## SPRAY, SPRAY, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY

During O-kun Fiesta, we partnered with Cospray Haircolor as our partner. Then our lecturers from Cosplay Medics PH, AL-X and Nekomi Kasai demonstrated how the spray may be used on a wig. They used the Pink and Violet colors.



### COSPRAY TIP #1

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### COSPRAY TIP #2

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### COSPRAY TIP #3

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Don't spray too close to hair.

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### COSPRAY TIP #4

Using two colors can create a shadow effect. If your first layer is pink, you can add a hint of red or violet underneath to give it a look of volume.

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**Author:** Boye Lafayette De Mente

**Publisher:** Tuttle Publishing

**ISBN:** 9784805313831

**Date Published:** March 8, 2016

**Original Price:** 322.69 php

Are you going on a trip to Japan, but worried that you may find it difficult to roam because of the language barrier?

**Instant Japanese** is an easy-to-carry book that will help you get through your travel in Japan. It contains only 100 key words that you need to know in order to say a thousand things just enough for you to communicate effectively in your travels.

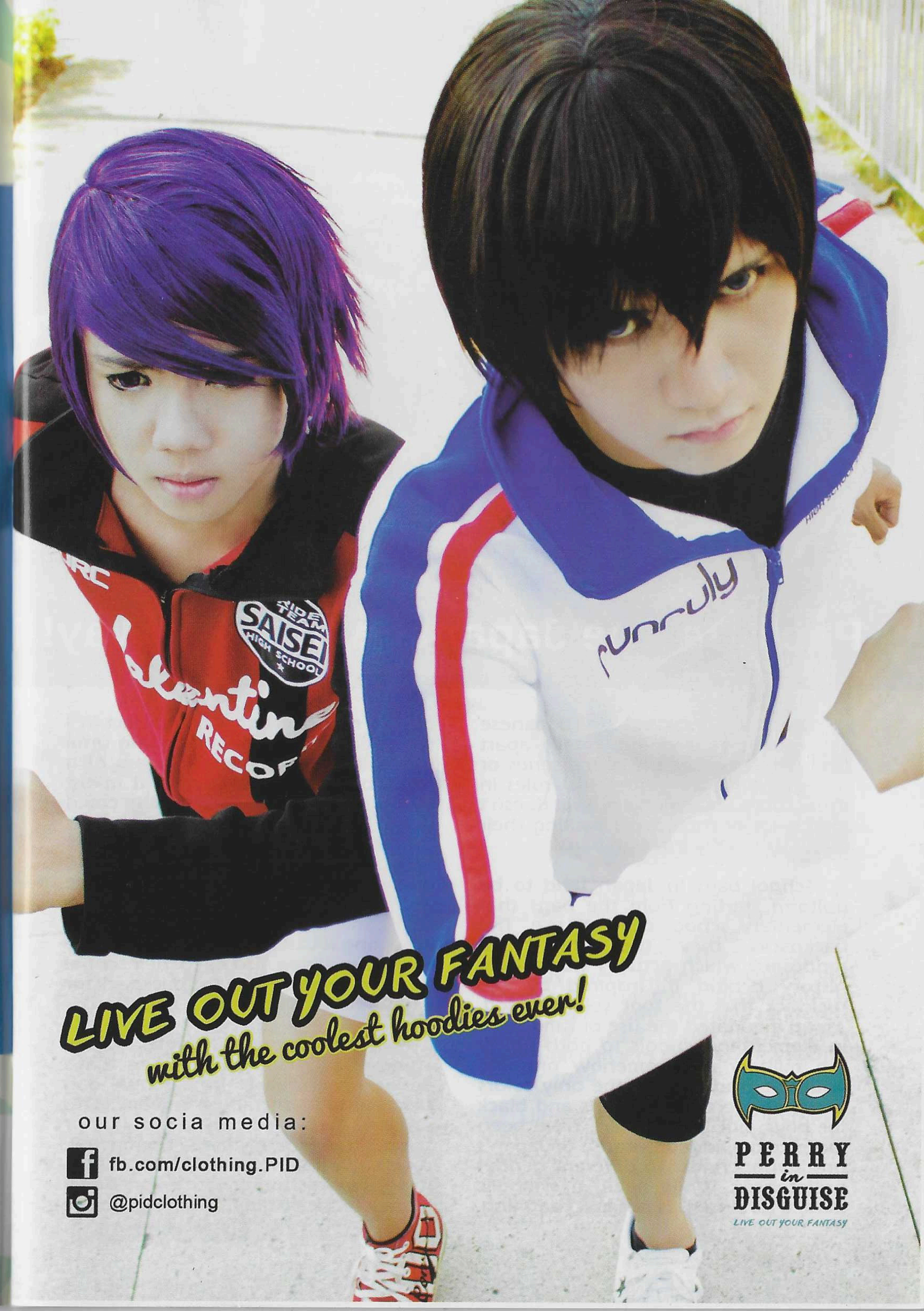
The key is not to memorize the words in a Japanese dictionary, nor a pack of Japanese phrases and sentences you saw on the internet; you just have to know which words to learn and the author did that for you already!

**Boye Lafayette De Mente** made sure to list down the top 100 words that you may often hear during your trip, and it will surprise you how this small vocabulary could already let you quickly and fluently communicate in the Japanese language. A brief guide to pronunciation allows the user to say the phrases correctly and a Japanese dictionary allows for quick reference.

This revised version contains 15% more content, interesting manga-style illustrations, Japanese etiquette tips and even additional information on which destinations, personalities and trends are hot in Japan right now! Nothing beats getting more than what you just need, doesn't it?

Through this book, you can learn how to communicate when meeting people, going shopping, riding the subway, asking directions, ordering food, and many more!

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## Pack Up The Japanese Student Way!

by Ann

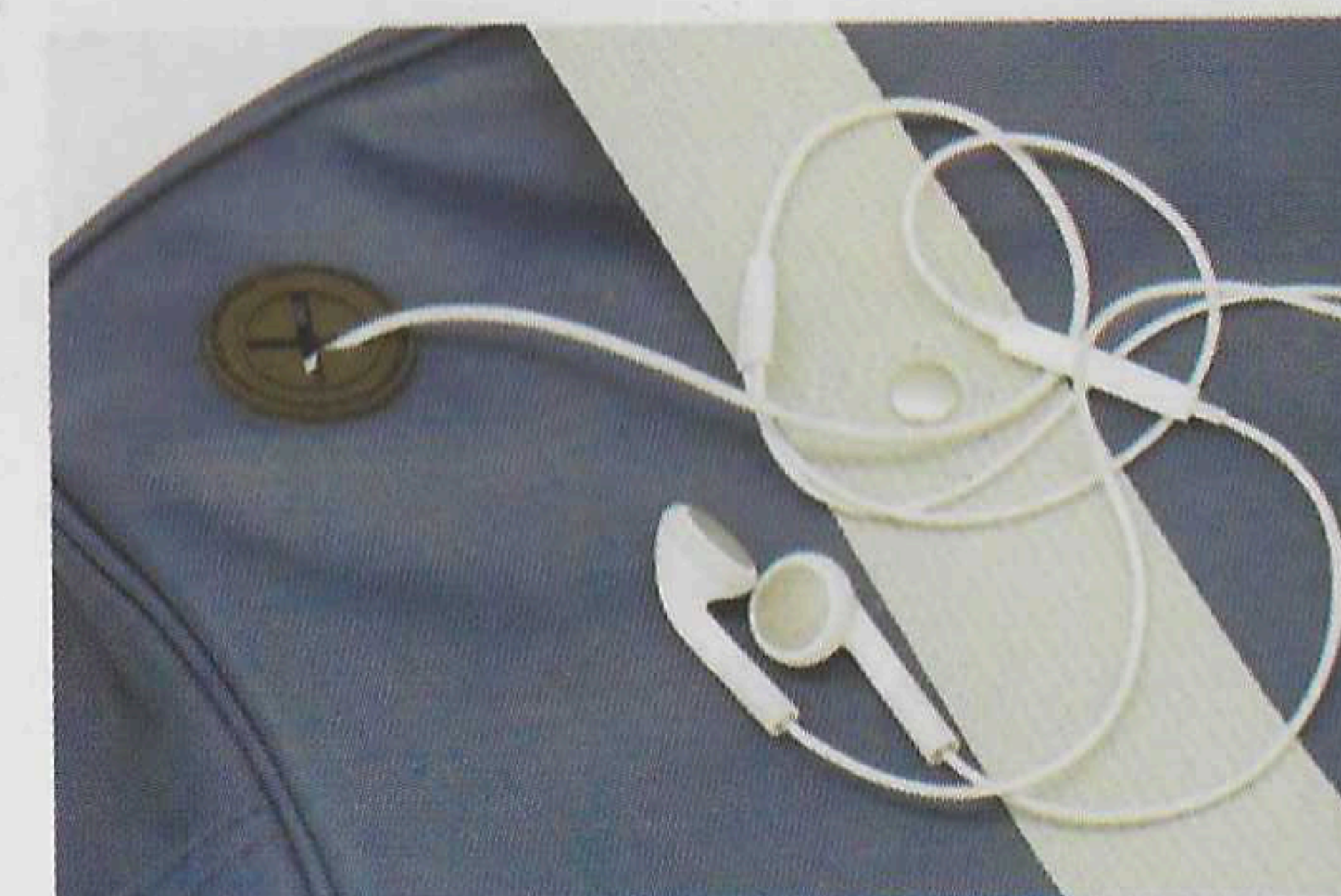
Dress to impress? In Japanese schools, that's a no-no, totally apart from what we see on anime series or manga. While there are strict rules in dress codes and hairstyles, that doesn't stop a lot of them from making their own fashion say through bags!

School bags in Japan tend to be uniform starting from the bags that elementary school children use. The backpacks they use are called randoseru which actually has a long history behind it. Inspired by the rucksack that the foot soldiers used, Japan mandated the use of randoseru in elementary schools to both honor the military and somehow promote equality. Traditionally, the only colors accepted were red for girls and black for boys, but today, there have been more colors added because of Japan's gradual openness to different gender preferences. While being a symbolic item, a randoseru is not just charming,

but it's made to last years. In fact, it's expected to last from beginning until the end of the elementary days of a child, but with greater care, it might even last a lifetime. This quality could only be delivered by leather or synthetic leather and painstakingly produced by hand, which would already spell out that this cute backpack costs a lot beginning at \$100. Still, the price tag is just right for how long it can be used. Some private schools in Japan also have their school emblem embossed on the backpack for the students to be easily recognized.

Moving forward, high school students in Japan carry a bag that's easily recognized to be a school bag because of its rectangular shape. This one can be carried on the shoulder or hand. It's commonly made from nylon, real or synthetic leather. While outside, it looks pretty boring with colors being mainly black or gray, this bag is more

than any student can ask for because of the many compartments available in front and inside. These pockets make it easy to keep pens, notebooks, books, (and even some fashion accessories for the girls) easily organized. Another feature unique to the Japanese high school bag is a compartment for a tumbler inside the bag, but even this mesh pocket is well-secured, so there is no need to worry of the drink spilling.



While these bags are necessary to hold the school stuff that every student needs in school (and some things they want to use after school), students typically hang kawaii keychains and charms to add more personality to them. On the other hand, a randoseru usually has a safety reflector attached to it, which makes children easy to spot on the road.

Ultimately, these bags offer both functionality and style, which for everyone may not just be something for school. So, why not join the trend of school bags for any season and any reason?





## SEIYUU'S MIC

For the fangirls out there! Let us present to you the voice behind some of our lovely ikemen!

# Kensho Ono (小野賢章)

Date of birth: October 5, 1989  
Birthplace: Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan  
Blood type: A  
Height: 170 cm  
Weight: 47 kg

Formerly represented by **Gekidan Himawari** and now represented by **Animo Produce**, Kensho Ono is a Japanese actor, voice actor and singer who is most well known for voicing **Harry Potter** in the Japanese dubs of the Harry Potter Series.

He also casted in a lot of different TV anime, video games and original video animations, giving life to various characters, some of who everyone is familiar with.

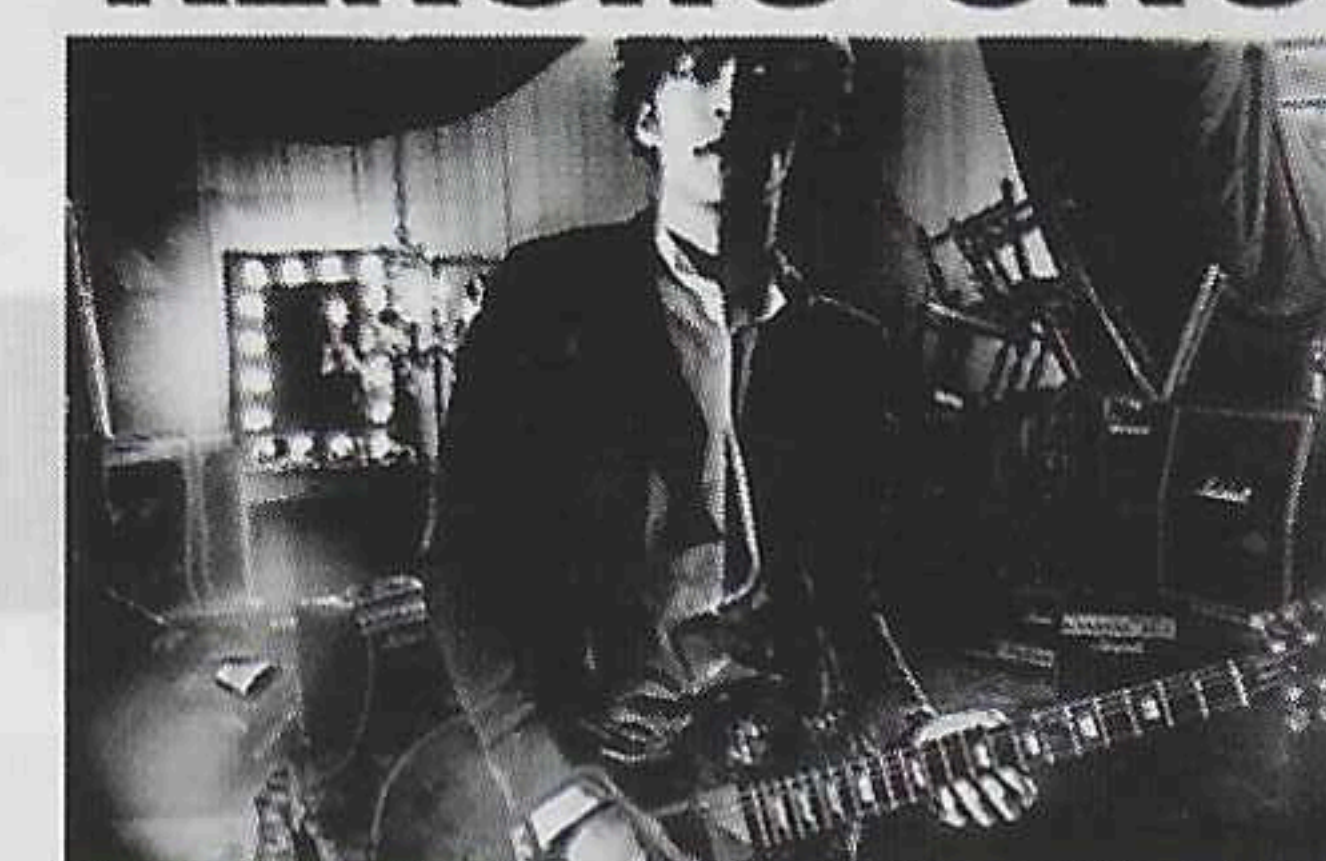
## KENSHO ONO



Kuroko Tetsuya  
of Kuroko no Basuke



Hakuryuu Ren  
of Magi: The Labyrinth of Magic



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Arata Kaizaki  
of ReLIFE

Remarkably dubbing only for handsome anime characters? Now that's what you call the voice for a maiden's heart. Let's all give time to thank him for completing a fangirl's dream.

Kensho is also known for playing the second generation **Muromachi Toji** in the Prince of Tennis Musical.



Slaine Troyard  
of Aldonah.Zero



Tanaka  
of Tanaka-kun is  
Always Listless

Here are some of his other anime casting as a voice actor:

**Shikadai Nara** (Boruto - Naruto the Movie) **Alain** (Pokemon: Mega Evolution Special) **Raichi Todoroki** (Ace of Diamond) **Bolt** (Ahare! Meisaku-kun) **Hozumi Kohinata** (Prince of Stride: Alternative) **Ryunosuke Akutagawa** (Bungo Stray Dogs) **Shun Asanaga** (Endride) **Tarou Komori** (Ghost Hound) **Satoru Kamio** (Gingitsune) **Yoshichika Tsurugi** (Luck and Logic) **Touru Nayuki** (STARMYU)

As a music artist, he recently released his first mini-album **COLORS** last March 23, 2016 under **Lantis** label. In 2014, moreover, he won the **Best New Artist** category in **JpopAsia Music Awards**.





## HOOKED BOOK



TUTTLE TRAVEL PACK

# KYOTO AND NARA

GUIDE  
+ MAP

YOUR GUIDE TO KYOTO'S BEST SIGHTS FOR EVERY BUDGET



HOTELS IN EVERY CATEGORY FOOD & RESTAURANTS SHOPPING SPOTS NIGHTSPOTS  
& TRADITIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GALLERIES & MUSEUMS PARKS & GARDENS  
KID-FRIENDLY PLACES & ACTIVITIES OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FESTIVALS & EVENTS  
PERSONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM A LONG-TIME JAPAN RESIDENT

## Kyoto and Nara Tuttle Travel Pack Guide + Map Your Guide to Kyoto's Best Sights for Every Budget

**Author:** Rob Goss

**Publisher:** Tuttle Publishing

**ISBN:** 9784805311790

**Date Published:** August 23, 2016

**Original Price:** 694.14 php

Planning your itinerary might be the hardest part when travelling to Japan. Just one city gives you unlimited options on what things can be done for your entire stay, which most of the time are only for a few days for most travellers. Hence, it is just right to make a good research on your target places so as to see which are the best you can do for your getaway.

Now if it is the countryside and temples that you want to see in Japan, Kyoto and Nara would be the best choice for you. There are hundreds of temples that you can visit, and a guide is a must for you to decide which ones should you see.

**Rob Goss**, a British writer based in Tokyo, wrote this detailed guide book to Kyoto and Nara in order to give travelers what they need when going around these cities. It covers not only the unique UNESCO World Heritage sites but also bustling Nishiki-koji street market and many smaller shrines and temples where enchanting moss and tree gardens lie hidden behind high stone walls. Moreover, a convenient pull-out map is included in the package, and will favorably assist a clueless tourist in his way.

### Key features of the travel pack:

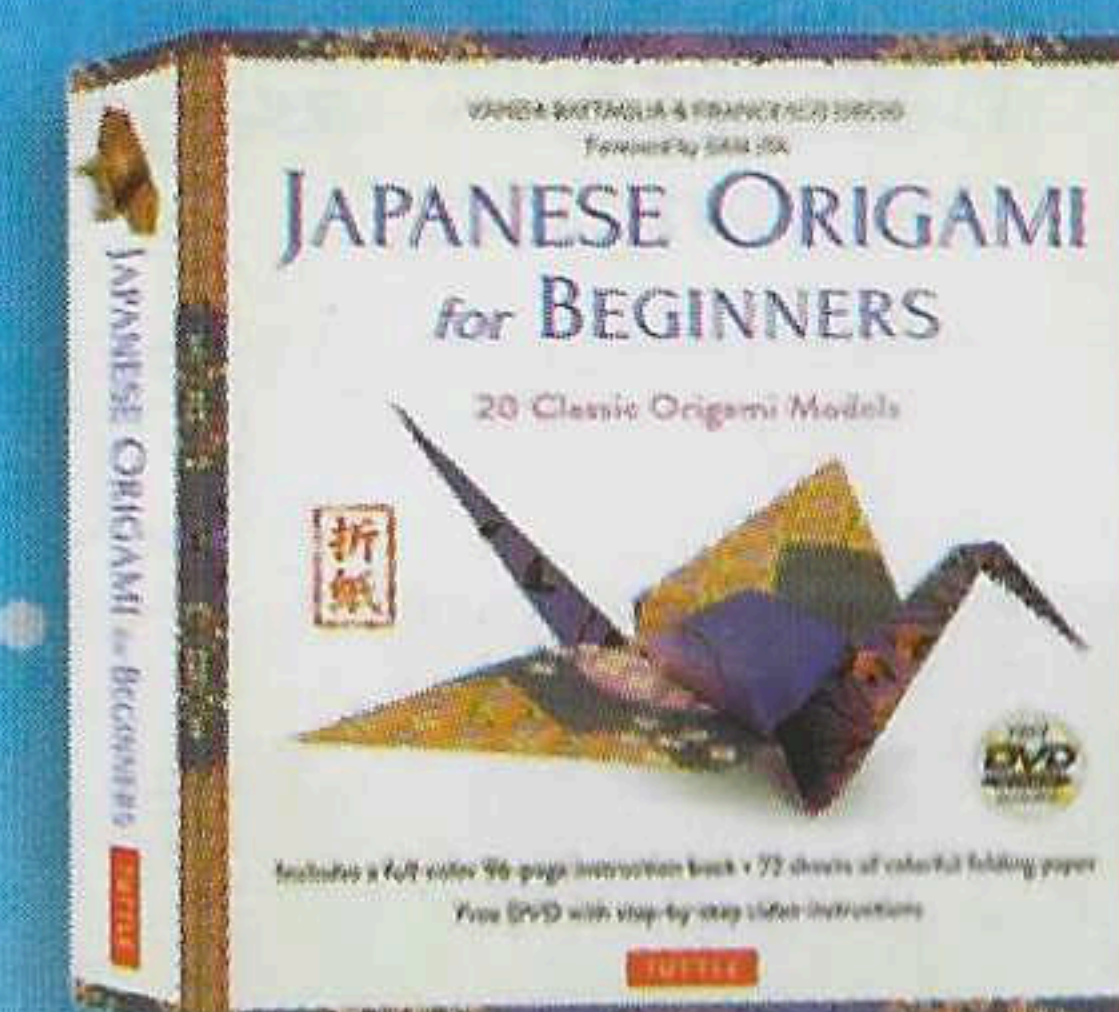
- Kyoto and Nara's Best Sights lists down the top 11 things to see and do in these historical cities of Japan.
- Exploring Kyoto and Nara brings you deep into the two former capitals with eight day-by-day guides.
- Author's Recommendations gives specific details on the best hotels and restaurants, day and night activities, shopping areas, museums and galleries, and cultural experiences.
- Travel Practicalities includes essential information to make your trip go smoothly, such as quick Japanese phrases you need to say involving transportation, money, and many more.

Goss is known for writing books and features about Japan, and has even won the North American Travel Journalists Association 2013 Gold Prize award for his Travel Pack Japan also released by Tuttle Publishing. He also released two other travel books under the same publishing company.

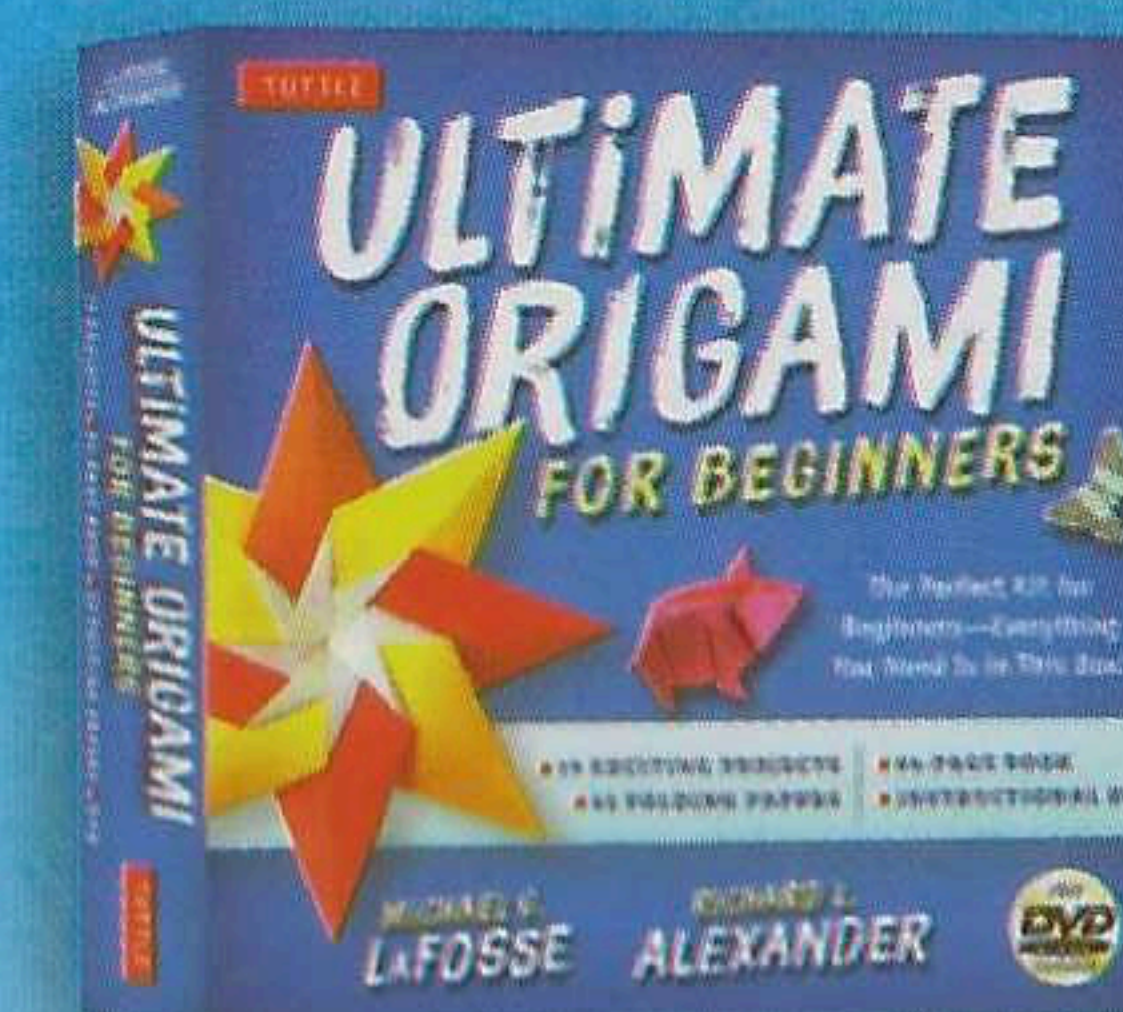
Save the hassle of checking all different blogs and articles, and take everything that you need to know about Kyoto and Nara through just one book.

## Great Gifts from

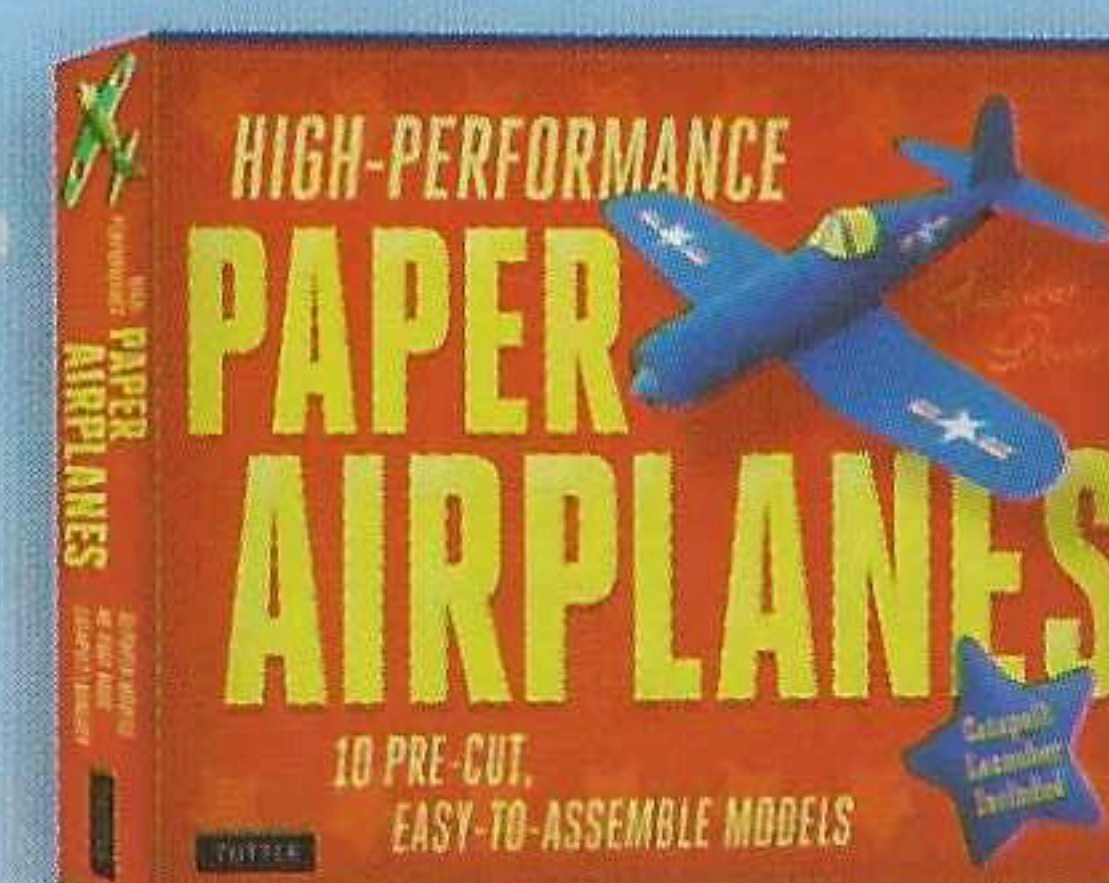
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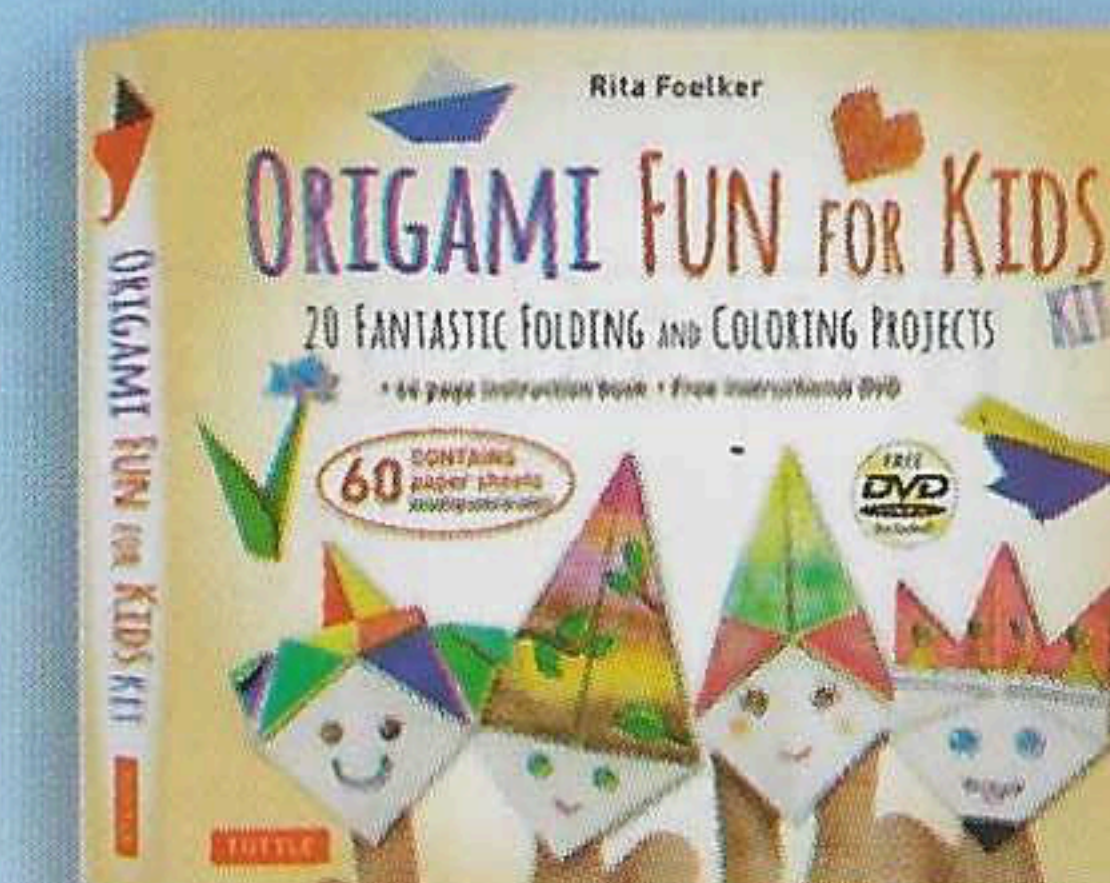
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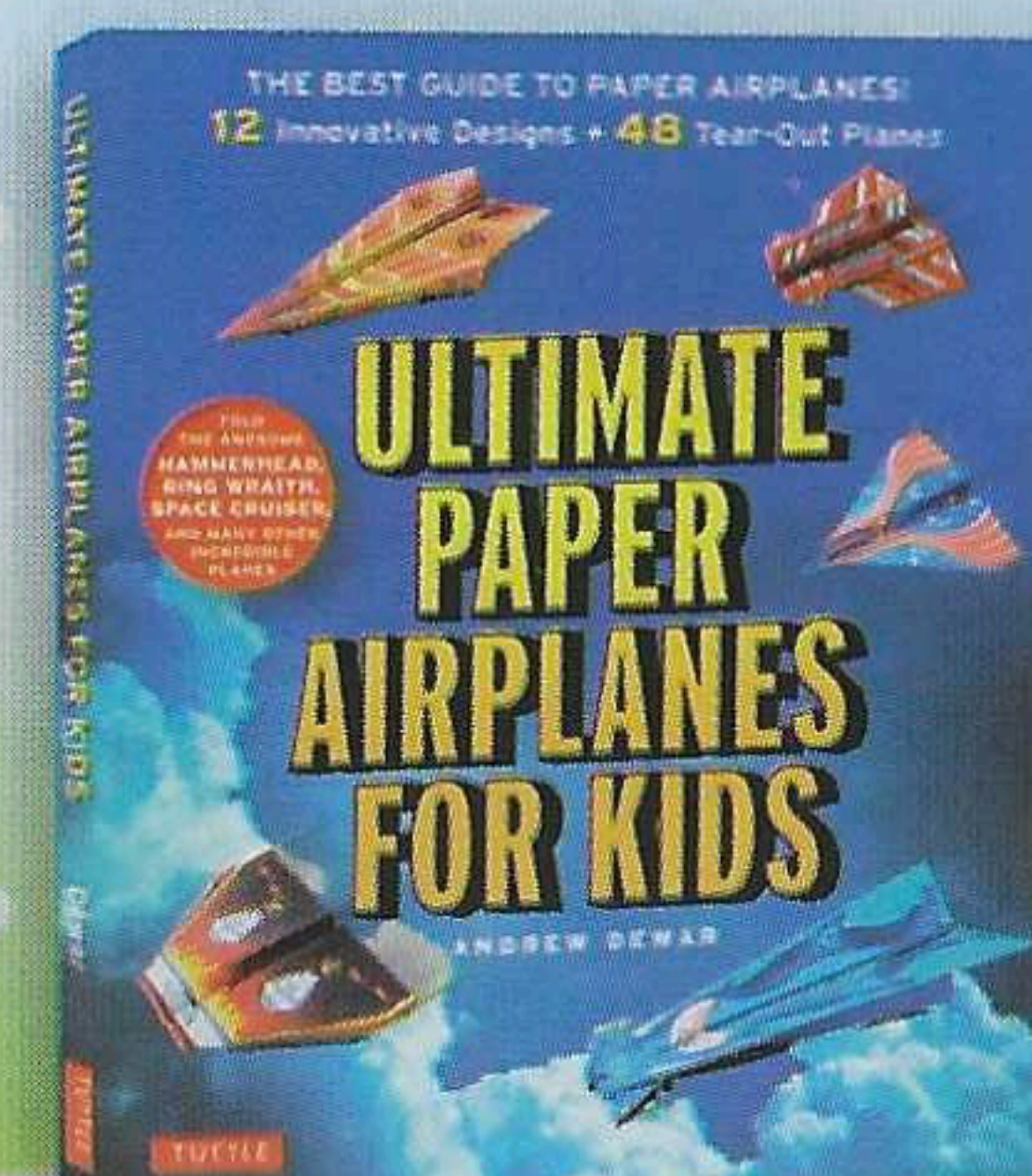
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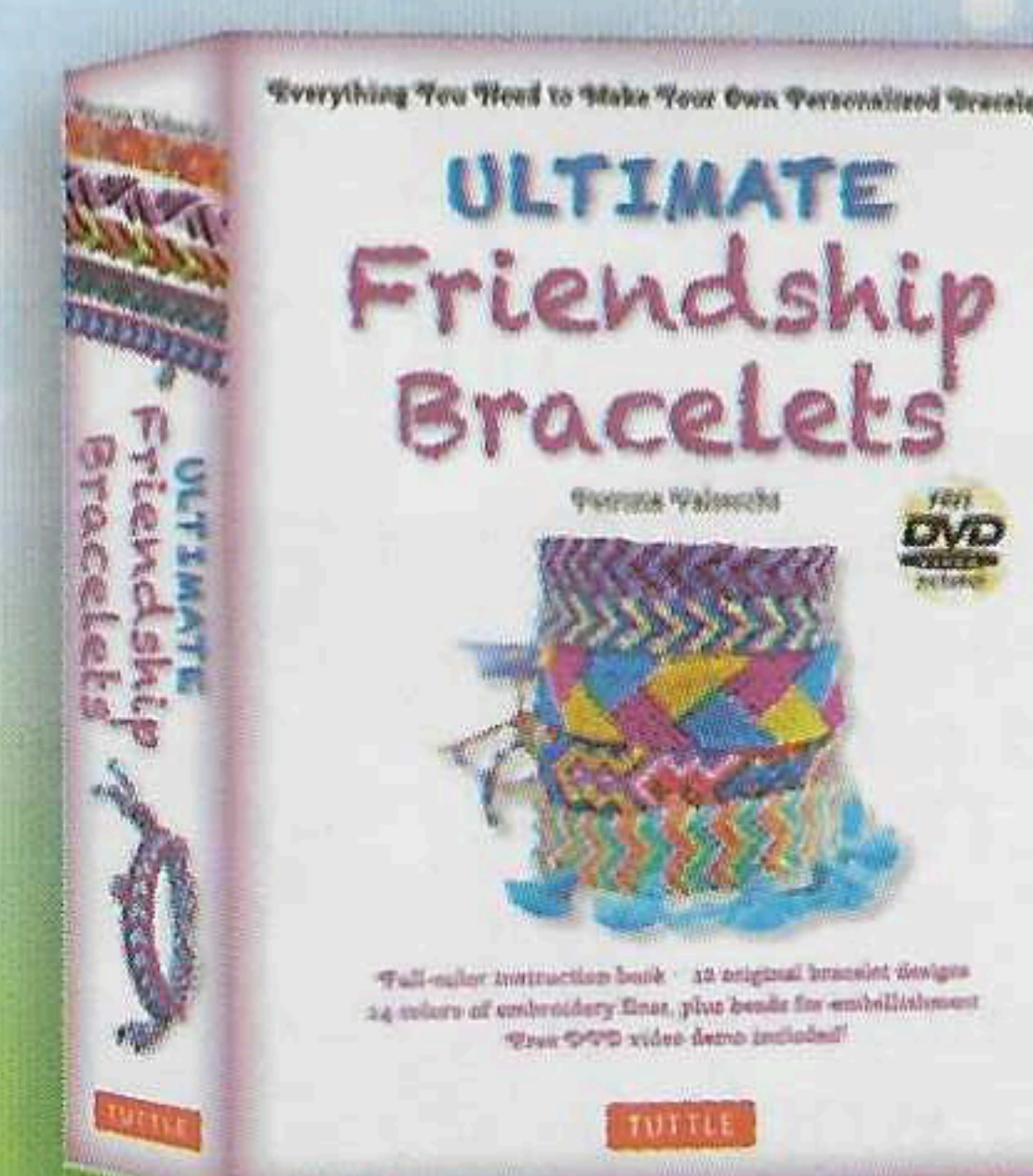
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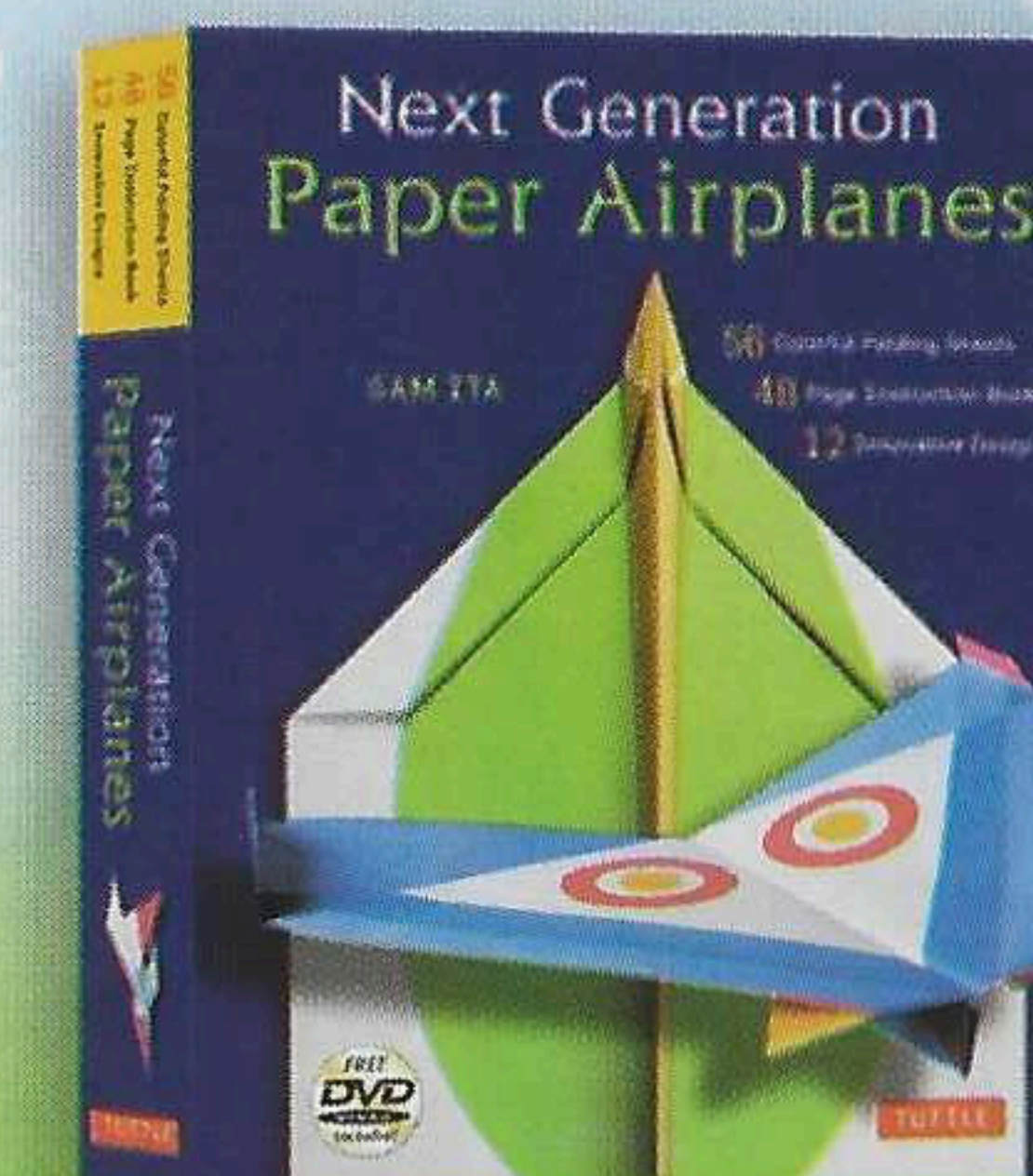
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## RICE FIVE WAYS

It's not hard to understand that rice is a staple food in the Philippines. And we know that it is the same in Japan since our culture are not too far apart. However, our use of rice differs. In this article, I will show you five of the many ways the Japanese have been eating rice and maybe, you might try them and find that it could be in your liking.

Rice (n)

こめ - kome - uncooked rice

ごはん - gohan - cooked rice or meal

Rice is considered the base of a Japanese meal. The word for breakfast, あさごはん - asagohan, translates as "morning rice"

### OCHAZUKE

Of course the 5 ways will come from anime. This one is from Bungou Stray Dogs as "rice with tea poured on it" which is おちゃづけ ochazuke.

In the PH, we also pour *sabaw* on our rice, this time, it's hot tea. Common toppings include pickles, nori, wasabi, umeboshi (all of which I think are in the screenshot).

Good for burned and leftover rice.



### TAMAGO KAGE GOHAN



Other than omurice, there is another egg-rice combo that is widely popular: Tamago kage gohan たまごかけごはん which translates as "put egg on rice". While being wary of salmonella, the Japanese has always enjoyed this dish with an additional shoyu しょうゆ mixed together in a wonderful bowl.

Good for students and office workers on a budget.

### UMEBOSHI AND RICE

Some bento would have a circular red item in the middle and even in onigiri. If you are not familiar with that it actually is umeboshi うめぼし or pickled plums. The flavor is sour, sweet and SALTY.

We have yet to taste it but it must be very tasty to be able to flavor a whole cup of rice.

Reckon that it would be available in Japanese stores in Little Tokyo. Good for people who can buy umeboshi.



## OYAKU

Rice porridge is also a good way to go if normal rice is boring you. Its fast, soft and simple enough for anyone.

Called okayu おかゆ, the rice to water ratio is about 1:5 for 30 minutes which makes it thicker than the Chinese congee. Negi ねぎ or onion is usually mixed in for flavor.

Good for babies, elderly and the sick.



### CHAHAN



If you have a lot of ingredients to work with, well, sinangag is also a thing in Japan. They call it chahan ちゃあはん for fried rice.

Just like ang fried rice fry the hard ingredients first like carrots, peas and meat. Then green onions, egg and soysauce. Mix the rice evenly so that the egg coats every grain.

Good for big eaters.

Even though we are not on the topic of safety, We want to remind you that in every dish that you make, you have to use safe ingredients and clean tools. We've been told that if you are going to make a tamago kage gohan (TKG), better use organic Japanese eggs on very hot rice.

Remember to wash your vegetables, meat and fish well. This safety note goes to all raw ingredients in a Japanese dish.



### HOW TO MAKE PINK RICE

Sakura Denbu 桜でんぶ fish floss is used to make a rice pink. It is seasoned codfish condiment that is cooked, shredded and dried to make flakes.

Some claim that it makes the rice sweeter, when tried, we honestly could not tell. However when eaten as it is, yes it is sweet.

Good for bentos for your special someone or a good friend.







## HERE TO PLAY

# Hot Mobile Games

by Mikelle

In today's era, mobile phones or smartphones is one of the hottest mediums right now that quenches a gamer's thirst. That which once started from just Tetris or Snake, mobile gaming has evolved and has etched itself into our history and is now on par with console and pc games.

Though most mobile games are free-to-play, there are still some ways to invest in them which some players do in order to get units, items or other packages which would provide them with an advantage towards other players, hence mobile games are also top competitors within the gaming market. Now its time to introduce some of those top mobile games that are not only hot in Japan but are globally trending as well.



## Grandblue Fantasy

Release date: 2014  
Developer: Cygames  
Publisher: Mobage  
Platform: Android, iOS  
Requirement: Android 2.3, iOS 6.0  
Google Play score: 4/5

Granblue Fantasy works as a turn-based RPG. The game features a class and summoning system that helps players with their quests. Characters, summons and weapons maybe acquired through quest or by using the in-game currencies in order to randomly acquire them. The game also boast not only their cool classic gameplay, but also an epic lineup or voice actors and actresses that brings life to the game's characters.

The game also brought forth the reunion between two legendary staff from the early Final Fantasy franchise; the music composer Nobuo Uematsu and character designer Hideo Minaba



## Digimon Linkz

Release date: 2016  
Publisher: Bandai Namco Entertainment  
Platform Android, iOS  
Requirement: Android 4.1, iOS 7.0  
Google Play score: 3/5

The Digital World along with its inhabitants; Digimons are back and are now available in your mobiles. The line between the real and the digital world is blurred once more and forces the protagonist to take action. The famous Digimons from the whole series that everyone loved and used to cheer for in their childhoods are made available for players to acquire.

Players fight side by side with their favorite Digimons and confront foes in a 3v3 battle. Though you need to strengthen your partners in order to gain their ultimate forms, the bonds you create will help players solve the mysteries that are plaguing both worlds.



## Final Fantasy: Brave Exvius

Release date: 2015  
Developer: Alim Co.  
Publisher: Square Enix  
Platform: Android, iOS  
Requirement: Android 2.3.3, iOS 6.0  
Google Play score: 3.5/5

Experience a new tale of crystals with a new Final Fantasy game made available for mobile gamers. The game features a brand new expansive storyline with new and past characters from the franchise. You can also view some high quality CG whenever they call forth their favorite FF summons. Players may once again enjoy the classic FF RPG gameplay to its fullest. Simple interactive battles and the classic field and dungeon explorations; this definitely is retro gaming at its finest.







## Valkyrie Anatomia: The Origin

Release date: 2016  
 Publisher: Square Enix  
 Platform: Android, iOS  
 Requirement: Android 4.0.3, iOS 8.0  
 Google Play score: 3/5



The fourth installment in the Valkyrie Profile series, Valkyrie Anatomia and is the prequel story of the epic Valkyrie Profile. The series is famous for its brutal time limits and complex battle systems, Anatomia may have adapted some of this but in a more simplified form. The gameplay is simple and is similar to some mobile games while the battle scenes still retain some of the earlier Valkyrie Profile game elements.

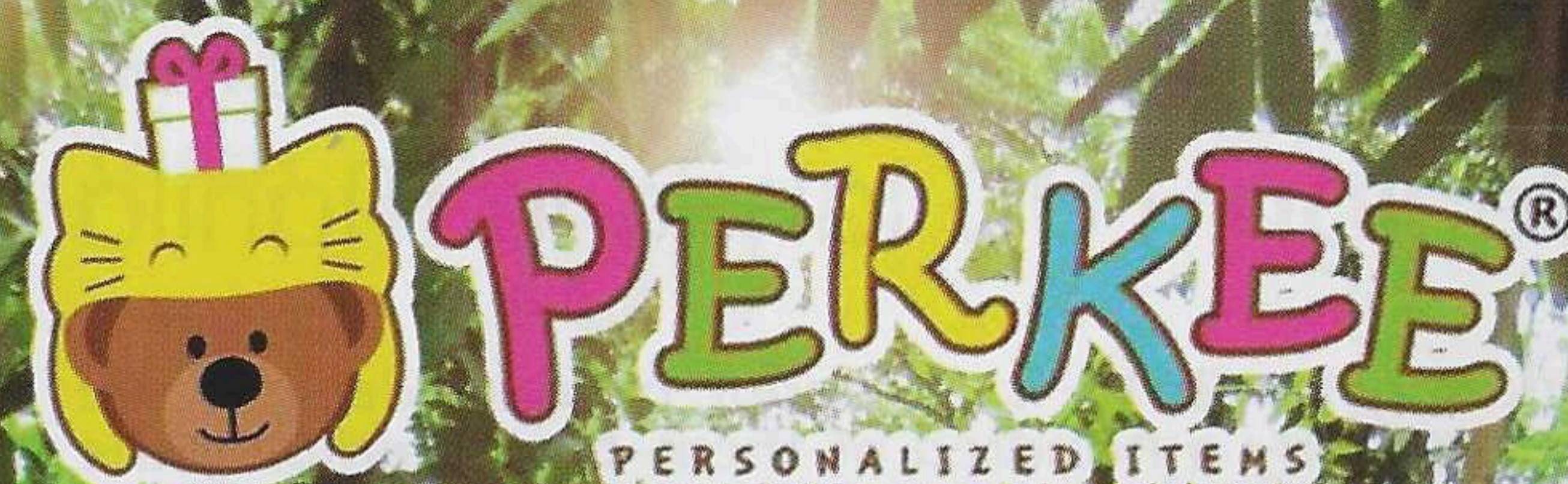


## Battle Girls High School

Publisher: COLOPL  
 Platform: Android  
 Requirement: Android 4.0  
 Google Play score: 3.7/5

Battle Girls High School is a hack and slash RPG game where the player acts as a teacher who handles a class of adorable students. The player must train their students in order to make them more powerful and potent in battles. Players may also acquire new students and weapons from the gacha which is random. The game is packed with great content and an abundance of story and quest.

Battle Girls High School makes your dream of becoming a teacher within an all girl's school come true. Not to mention you can perform head pats on your students, enough said right?



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**SINNICH!**

## Japanese Design 100 lands in Manila

JFM's traveling exhibition offering for 2016 is all about product design! We present carefully curated products—exactly a hundred of them—that exemplify the distinct Japanese style and mirror the needs and lifestyle of the Japanese.

Avant garde fashion designer Issey Miyake's No. 1 Dress in all its gorgeously pleated glory; the simple and functional AA Stool that the Ishinomaki Laboratory developed post-disaster; the stylish, electrically-assisted bicycle with a child seat – these three and 97 more will be showcased at Japanese Design Today 100, the traveling product exhibition proudly presented by the Japan Foundation, Manila (JFM), the Metropolitan Museum of Manila (MET) and the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines, with support from JT International (Philippines) Inc. Exhibition runs from June 30 to August 19, 2016 at the Tall Galleries of MET.



No. 1 dress, Issey Miyake, 2010

Japanese Design Today 100 will be on view alongside the parallel exhibition *Conversations on Philippine Design* at the Galeriya Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP Gallery) featuring stunning furniture and crafts by esteemed Filipino designers. The cultural dialogue through these exhibitions is timely, as 2016 marks the anniversary of "60 Years of Philippines-Japan Friendship," as well as the 20th anniversary of the Japan Foundation, Manila.

The exhibition was first organized by the Japan Foundation in 2004 and has been touring the world for 12 years.

The latest version features 100 of the finest examples of Japanese design with a focus on products, 11 of which are postwar designs from the 1950s to 1990s that had significant influence on Japanese design of today. Product categories include Furniture and Housewares to Healthcare; and Accessories to Transportation.

The design of household products serves as a reflection of the hopes and dreams of the people of Japan and the designers and companies who create them. "This exhibition can be approached as a study of Japanese design or it can be enjoyed in a visual way, as if taking a trip to a foreign country," writes Hiroshi Kashiwagi, the exhibition's curator, in the catalog foreword.

The exhibition is scheduled to hold a design dialogue event on July 2 to discuss the diverse facets of product design.

Product designer Keiji Ashizawa of Ishinomaki Lab, whose designs are included in the exhibition under the Disaster Relief category, will hold a one-day workshop on July 29 and a design dialogue event with 3 Design Co.'s co-founder Dan Matutina on August 3 at the MET.

## Japanese Design Today 100

by kent

Years ago, I could have taken Industrial Design in UST. The design of everyday objects fascinate me and how some designs have stood the test of time. I looked up to examples like Kenji Ekuan designer of the funnel shaped soy sauce bottle, with red top in 1961 (to be featured in the exhibit).

In this exhibit, you will be walking alongside designs that are simple and vulnerable. To make the exhibition more accessible and easier to understand, the items are classified by genres: furniture and fixtures, tableware and cooking utensils, clothing and accessories, children's products, stationery, hobby items, health products, disaster-relief products, and transportation.

While the exhibit first started in 2004, we are now looking at the second version that started in 2014. With updated examples of contemporary design from Japan students, Japan enthusiasts and artists would want to see this exhibit.

While there is no word yet regarding entrance fee, the exhibit has always been on free admission based on our research. Please enjoy and be inspired.



AA Stool, Ishinomaki Laboratory, 2012



Ice Cream Spoon, Naoki Terada, 2012



Nikon F, Nikon Corporation, 1959

### Hiroshi Kashiwagi



A design critic and Professor of History and Theory of Modern Design at Musashino Art University. Born in 1946 in Kobe. Graduated from Musashino Art University. His publications include *Kaji no Seijigaku* (The politics of housekeeping) published by Seidosha, *Modan Dezain Hihan* (Critique of modern design) by Iwanami Shoten, Publishers, "Shikiri" no Bunkaron (Cultural studies on "Partition") by Kodansha, *Gambutsu Soshi* (The toy book) by Heibonsha, and *Tantei Shosetsu no Shitsunai* (Interior of detective stories) by Hakusuisha Publishing. Kashiwagi has also curated such exhibitions as the Tanaka Ikko Retrospective Exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, and *Fantaisies Cybernetiques* at Maison de la culture du Japon a Paris.





What are these little things in life that touch our hearts? It's the meaningful conversations we make with family and friends, the laughs, some tearful moments, cute children, pets, and the likes of it. This saying holds true for Little Things PH artist Ivyree who enjoys making short, slice-of-life and funny, relatable comics.

Some of the short stories are cute and touching, while some are even meme-worthy because of the humor incorporated in them! Little Things PH started out small, but it's now a big part of people's lives, and really, the week is not complete without seeing these comics on our feeds. Here's a small interview with Ivyree to let people know more about Little Things PH.

compiled by: Lizac 3.0  
(all answers provided by Ivyree)

**When did "Little Things" start and how did it grow into a page that it is now?**

I doodled a lot and simply posted them in my Facebook profile. I really didn't plan them out to begin with, but I had a few more comic ideas of them that I continued to post in my timeline. As I collected about 4 or 5 comics, I decided to create an account on Tapastic and turn them into official characters around October. I didn't even think about a good title and ended up with "Little Things" as it randomly popped in my mind. It was on March 2, 2016 when I dedicated a page for Little Things. I only constantly shared it in my profile and in an art group called 'Guhit Pinas'. Soon enough, it reached more people little by little, and that motivated me to continue making even more comics for everyone to enjoy!

**THE BEST PART OF IT IS KNOWING THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE ALSO SHARE THE SAME EVENTS IN THEIR LIVES, TOO!**

**What's your inspiration to draw relatable things?**

The relatable art that I make usually comes from my personal experiences, with a few alterations. Most of the time, I draw the experiences that are weird or special, or lingers for some time, the kind of stuff that you tell your friends during gatherings and have a good laugh about. The best part of it is knowing that a lot of people also share the same events in their lives, too! On the other hand, a few also come from stories from my friends and some are completely made-up.

Drawing comics about relationships feels weird to be honest, since I wasn't really into that genre back then! Comedy/humor is my favorite, but I also like fantasy, slice of life, and time travel. I also have an unfinished comic that talks of mystery and gore.

**Do you have any artists you look up to and inspire you?**

I have lots! An entire handful of them. Starting from local artists, Manix Abrera has been one of my biggest influences over the years. Then, Emiliana Kampilan for her Dead Balagtas comics. There is also Mike Inel for his animations. For foreign artists, jknzmo, Vaporotem, Sarah Andersen, puuung, Andrew Hou, Jamie Hewlett, and many more.

**What's your personal favorite among all the artworks/short comics you've done so far? And why is it your favorite?**

I think I have two I like very much; the first one is when the boy pinched the girl's belly. I was giggling the entire time I was making it, especially when she went into beast mode in the last panel. It didn't require much dialog and I think that reaction is true in most cases, at least for me. Second is the "Iba't-ibang Uri ng GF" list. I was in Jollibee when I had the idea and wrote drafts in a small piece of paper, proceeded to drawing it that night. I had a lot of fun drawing the different girls. Nevertheless, it's a hard choice since all of the comics are special to me!

**Iba't-ibang uri ng GF**



**Is there any reason why Little Things has Tagalog and English versions?**

Yes! I originally wrote Tagalog for my comics, where I'm most comfortable at cracking jokes. But since I had to post it





in Tapastic, I needed to make English translations for the site. Back then, I considered the comic in Tapastic the more 'official' one since it's where LT had the most audience. The Facebook page I made eventually was merely an 'art dump' of the original Tagalog versions I made. As for the page title, it was simply because the 'Little Things' name was already taken by a different page, so I had to compromise.

#### Any message to your fans and other budding artists?

I want to give the fans of Little Things a huge thanks for all of the continuous love and support! To those who have been there from the very start, as well as those who are only recently enjoying the silly short comics. We started out as something very small, and now, we wouldn't be here if it weren't for you! You are the ones that strongly motivate us to make more.

**WE MAKE ART FOR THE LOVE OF IT, BECAUSE WE ENJOY IT**

As for the budding artists, never stop drawing. I've been dealing with a lot of frustrations recently because of art, how I don't improve and other people are so much better, it's making me sad especially these past few days. I'm sure we've all been here, and we get so hopeless that we just want to give up. But that shouldn't be the ground for us to stop. We are artists, and no matter where we are, we will always find the time to draw on something such as the back of receipts or tissue papers. And that's the best thing about it! We make art for the love of it, because we enjoy it, even though it doesn't always seem to come out right the first few times. Just keep on going. Collect all your artworks, get inspired, listen to music, learn from others, try new mediums, take references. Compare your old ones with the new ones. And you'll finally see improvements. It takes a lot of patience to get there, and I can tell as it's been a tough journey for me as well, but I guarantee it's going to be worth it.

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COSPLAY<sup>ph</sup>

# COSPLAY

## COSTUME OF THE YEAR 2015

Cosplay Costume of the Year Awards (CCY) is an annual awards ceremony started in 2009 with the purpose of showcasing the best costumes of the previous year. Organized by Cosplay.ph, the premier cosplay organizer responsible for massive cosplay conventions like Cosplay Mania, CCY had over 70 nominations this year, and was held at Cosplay Carnival, a fresh and fun-filled cosplay event that launched at SMX Manila last February 20-21, 2016. CCY has grown from a simple photo contest to a full-scale awards night celebrating the creativity and ingenuity of cosplay through the years.



COSPLAY COSTUME  
OF THE YEAR  
2015

# COSPLAY MANIA

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Pasay City.

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Not just presenters but judges as well, these talented and multi-awarded cosplayers have the honor of personally awarding the winners of CCY2015!



**TZA  
GOMEZ**

PRESENTING  
THE AWARD FOR  
BEST MALE

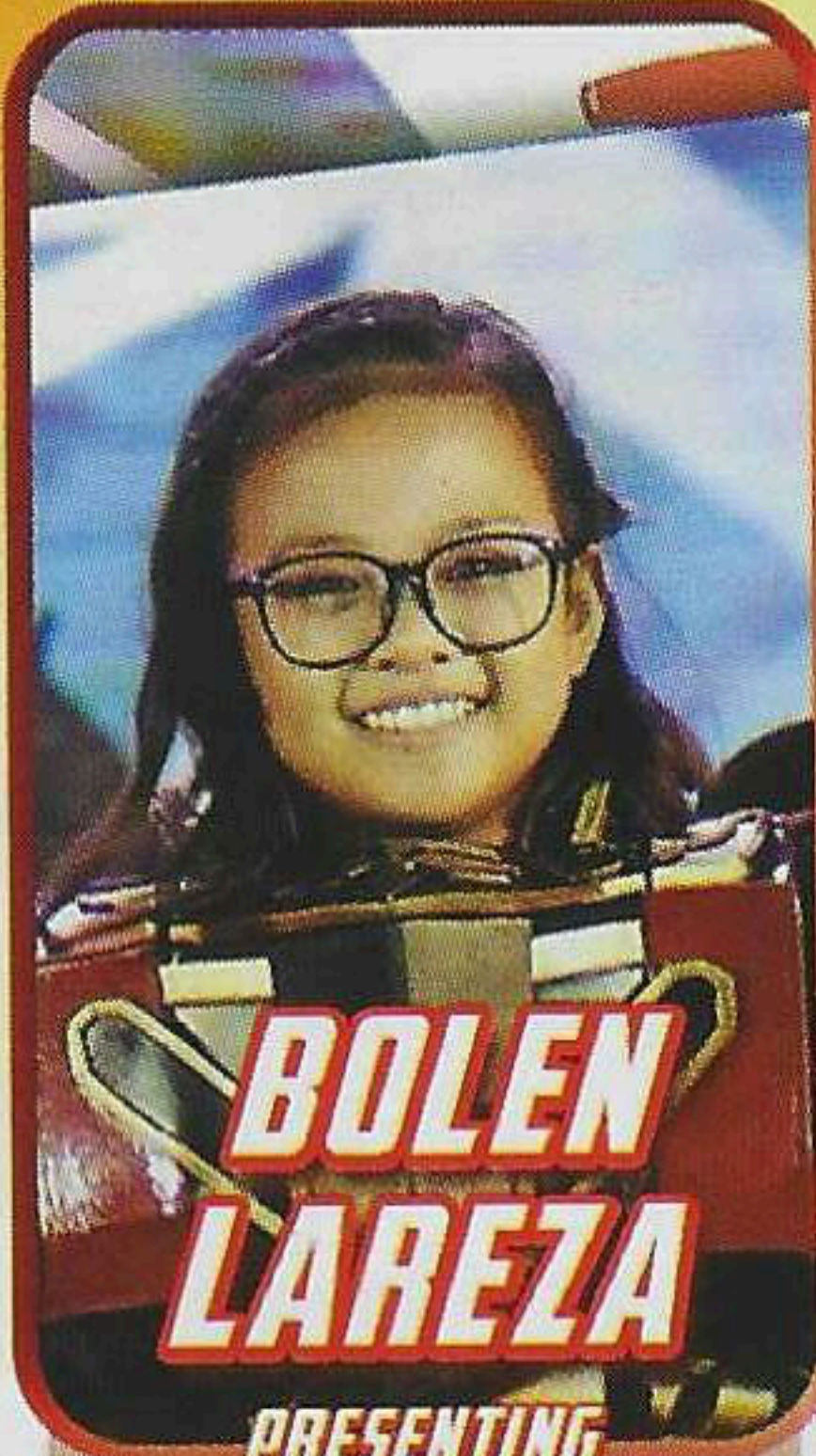
She is known as Heartseeker Miao, a gamer, a 2015 SMART Gamex Girl, League of Legends PH Poster Girl and Synergy 88 Avatar Girl.



**AC  
HERNANDEZ**

PRESENTING  
THE AWARD FOR  
BEST FEMALE

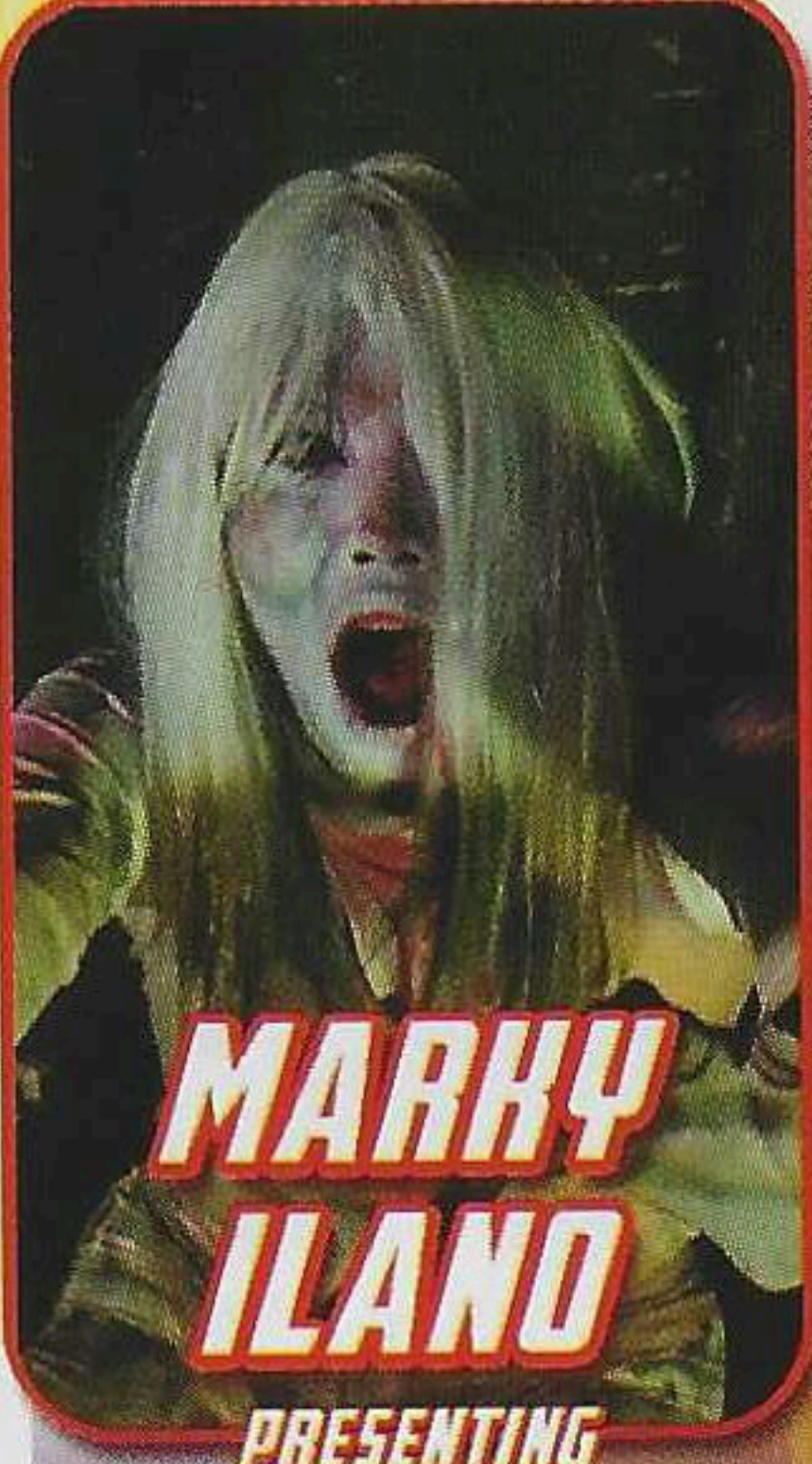
One half of the Phil. cosplay team that won 1st Place in the 2011 AFA RCC in Singapore. He is also a crafter of the arts that include theater costume, design and sculpture.



**BOLEN  
LAREZA**

PRESENTING  
THE AWARD FOR  
BEST CHILD

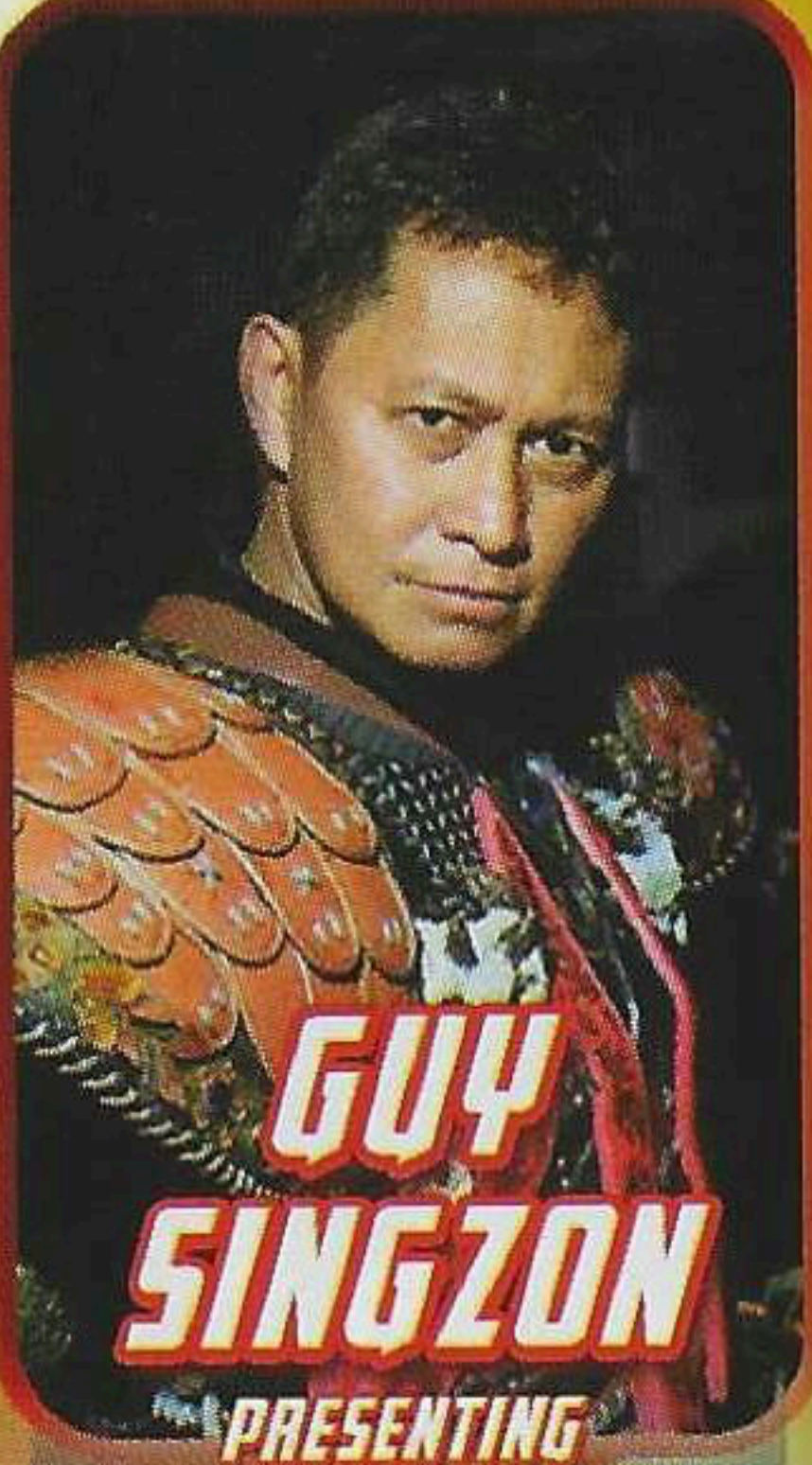
Well-known, talented and multi-awarded child cosplayer who serves as an inspiration for young cosplayers everywhere.



**MARKY  
ILANO**

PRESENTING  
THE AWARD FOR  
BEST CROSSDRESS

Winner of 5 Cosplay Costume of the Year awards! He is also known for his deep dedication and love for cosplay.

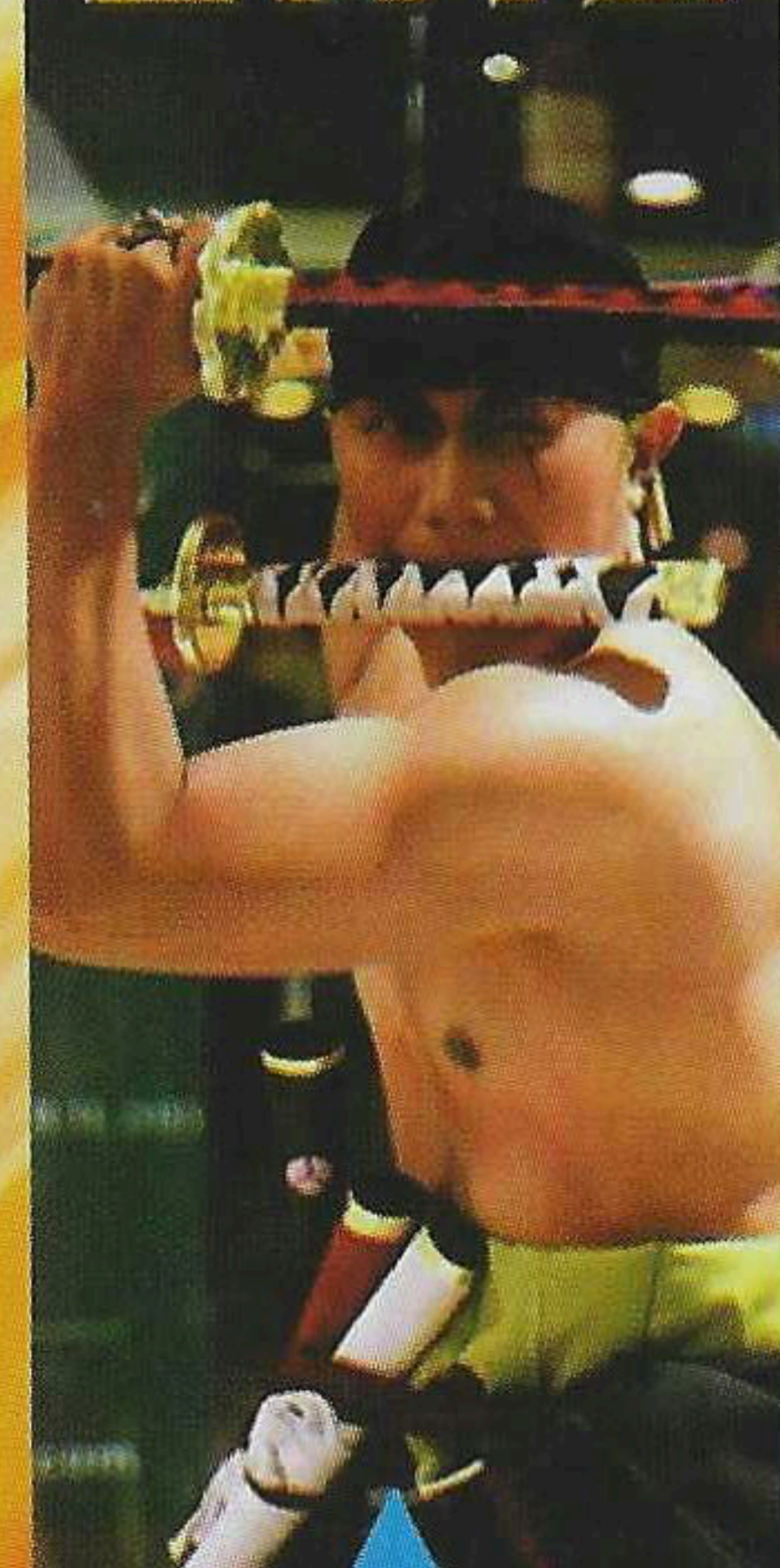


**GUY  
SINGZON**

PRESENTING  
THE AWARD FOR  
BEST MECHA /  
CREATURE

One of the best known award-winning veterans of the Philippine cosplay community and premier costume cosplay craftsman.

# BEST MALE FINALISTS



**GERARD PETER  
ORTEGA**

Roronoa Zoro  
One Piece



**GILBERT  
"GIBS"  
SAGUN**

Mumen Rider  
One Punch Man



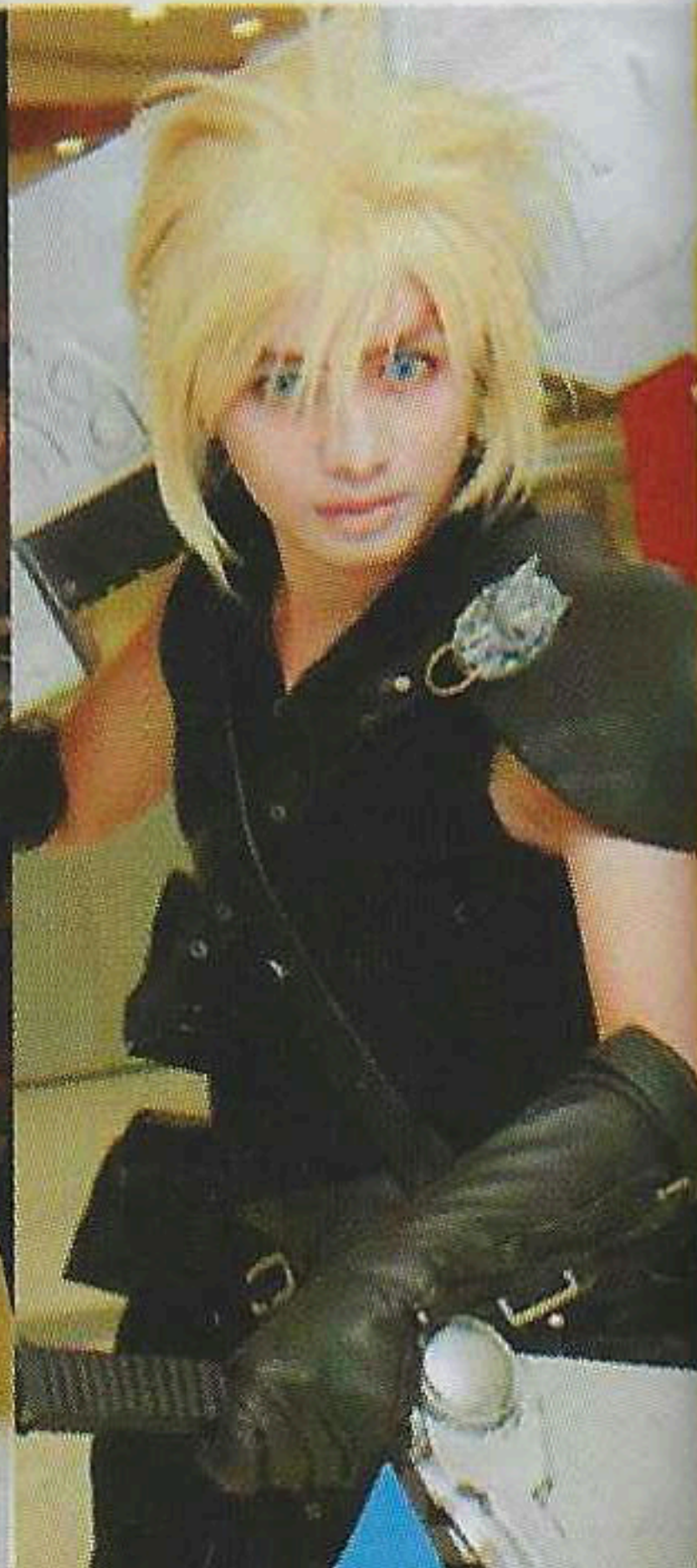
**JUAN ANGELO  
CUSTODIO**

Kim Jong Un  
The Interview



**TSUKIYAMA  
RAI**

Crowley Eusford  
Owari no Seraph



**JOHN RAFAEL  
UMALI**

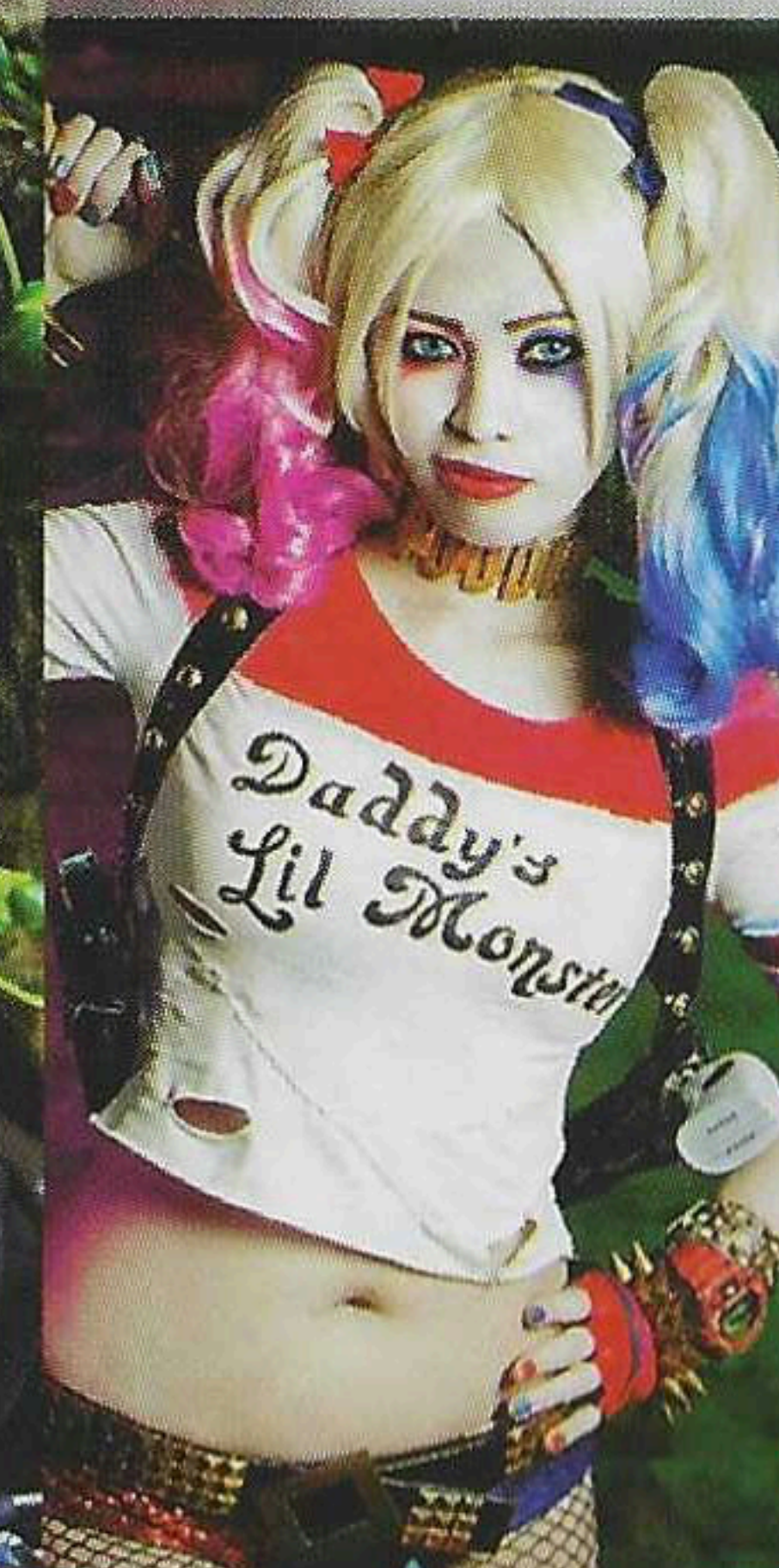
Cloud Strife  
Final Fantasy VII  
Advent Children

# BEST FEMALE FINALISTS



**KURI CURRY**

Fremy Speeddraw  
Rokka No Yuusha



**IZABEL  
CORTEZ**

Harley Quinn  
Suicide Squad  
Movie



**SHAGNE "YUMI"  
HASSINIQUE  
GRACELA**

I-ra  
Dream of Doll



**REIHA  
AMAKURA**

Ultimecia  
Final Fantasy VIII  
Final Fantasy Dissidia



**ANGELU C.  
AQUINO**

Tempest Ranger  
Sinon  
Sword Art Online

# BEST CHILD FINALISTS



**ETHAN  
LANTICAN**

Batman  
Arkham Knight



**HYLE HILLIARD  
NARON**

Megatron  
Transformers  
Movie



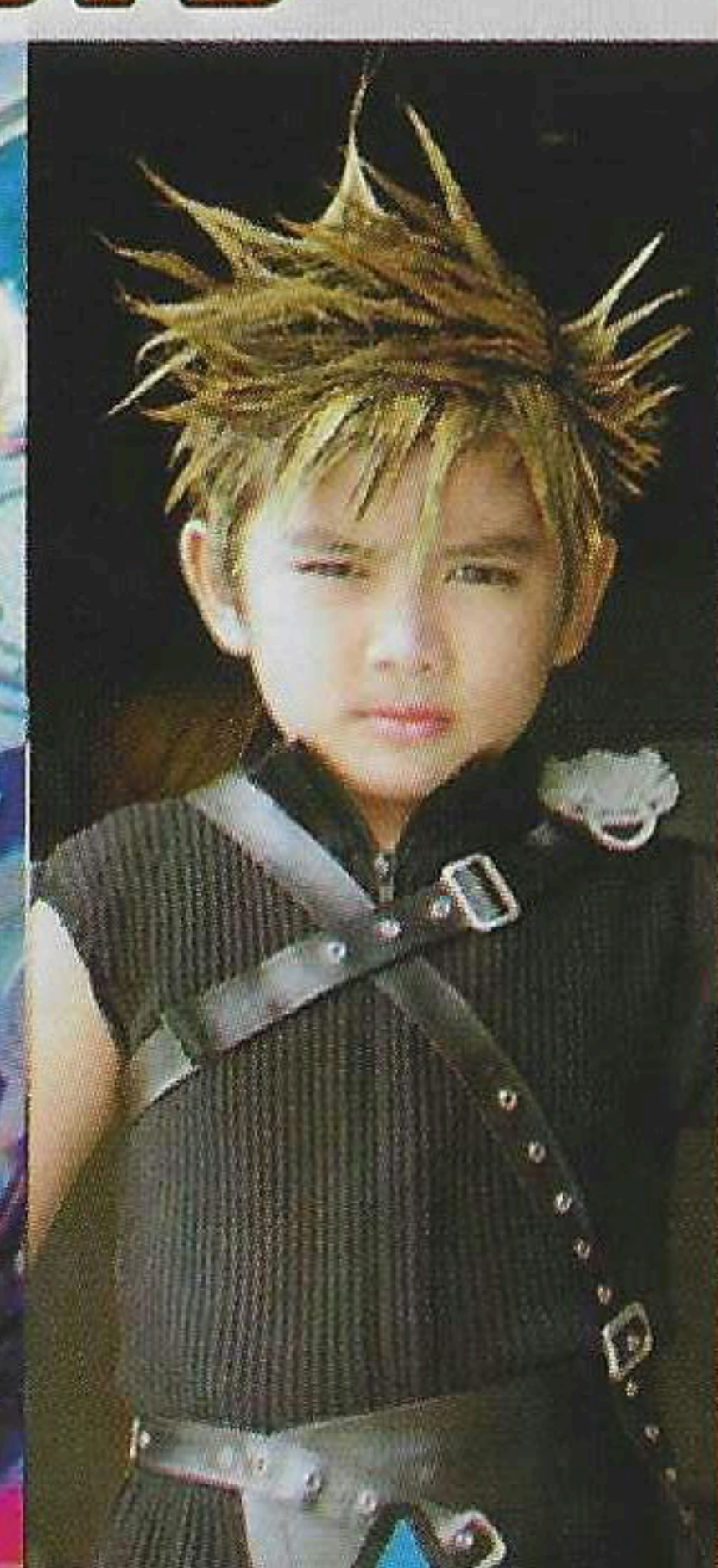
**HYLE HILLIARD  
NARON**

Iron Patriot  
Avengers



**HYLE HILLIARD  
NARON**

Thor  
Avengers



**STANLEY  
OLIQUNO  
PANTAND**

Cloud Strife  
Final Fantasy VII



# BEST CROSSDRESS FINALISTS



**AIRE HIE**

Shiro Yoshiwara  
(Festival version)  
Atekan



**MARY ROSELYN  
GUTIERREZ**

Arius  
Brave Frontier



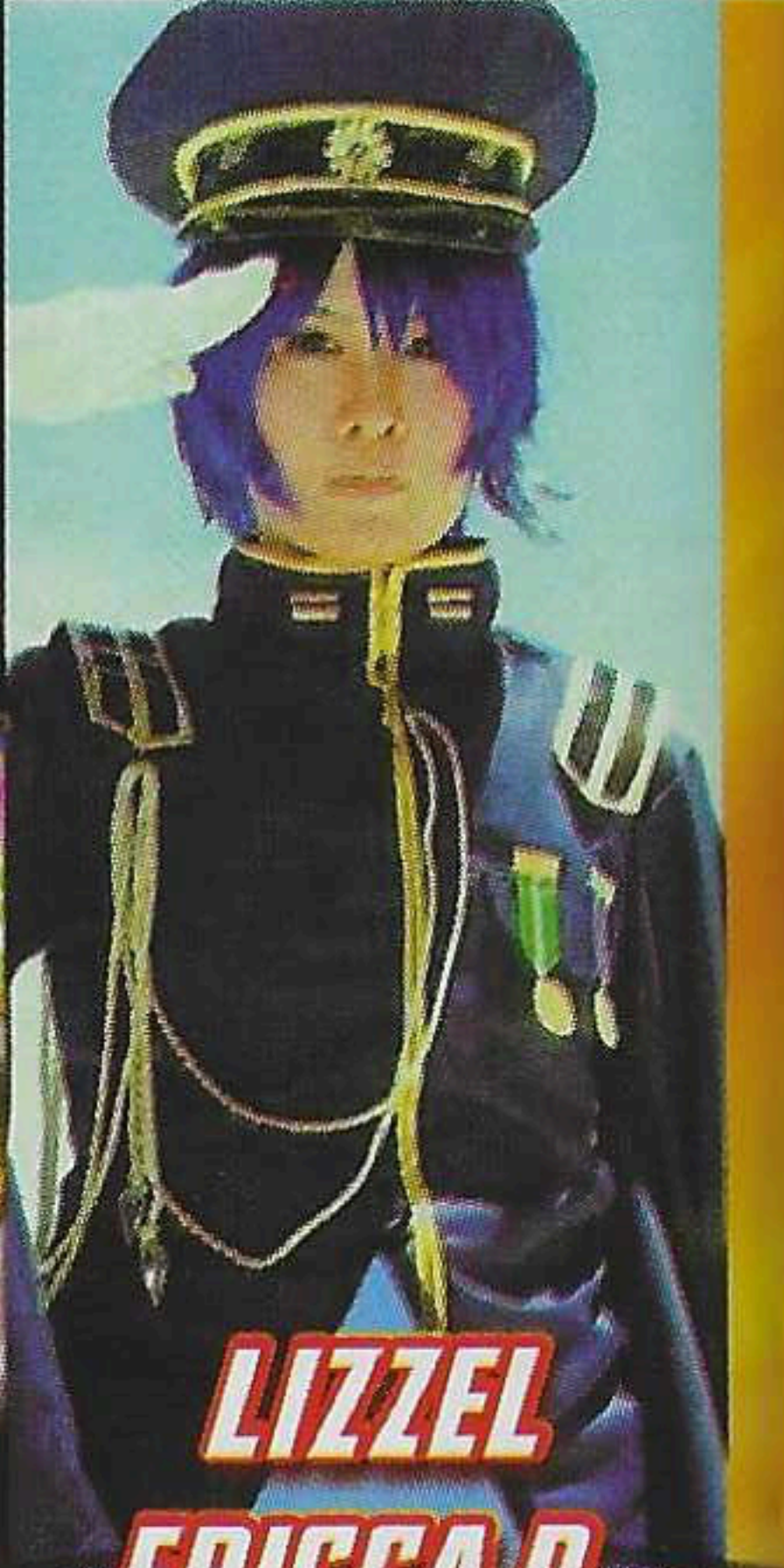
**JENNIFER H.  
BUARON**

Mikazuki  
Munechika  
Touken Ranbu



**DALE ANTHONY  
M. PERIAS**

Tiliith  
Brave Frontier



**LIZZEL  
ERICCA P.  
PALISADA**

Kaito Shion  
(Senbonzakura Ver)  
Vocaloid

# BEST MECHA / CREATURE FINALISTS



**ANTONIO L.  
LIBRANDA, JR.**

Panda  
Tibbers  
League of  
Legends



**IZABEL  
CORTEZ**

Ultima Weapon  
Final Fantasy 8



**MIKEE LOUISE  
JOVEN**

Bloodmoon  
Thresh  
League of  
Legends



**SERGIO  
STA. ANA**

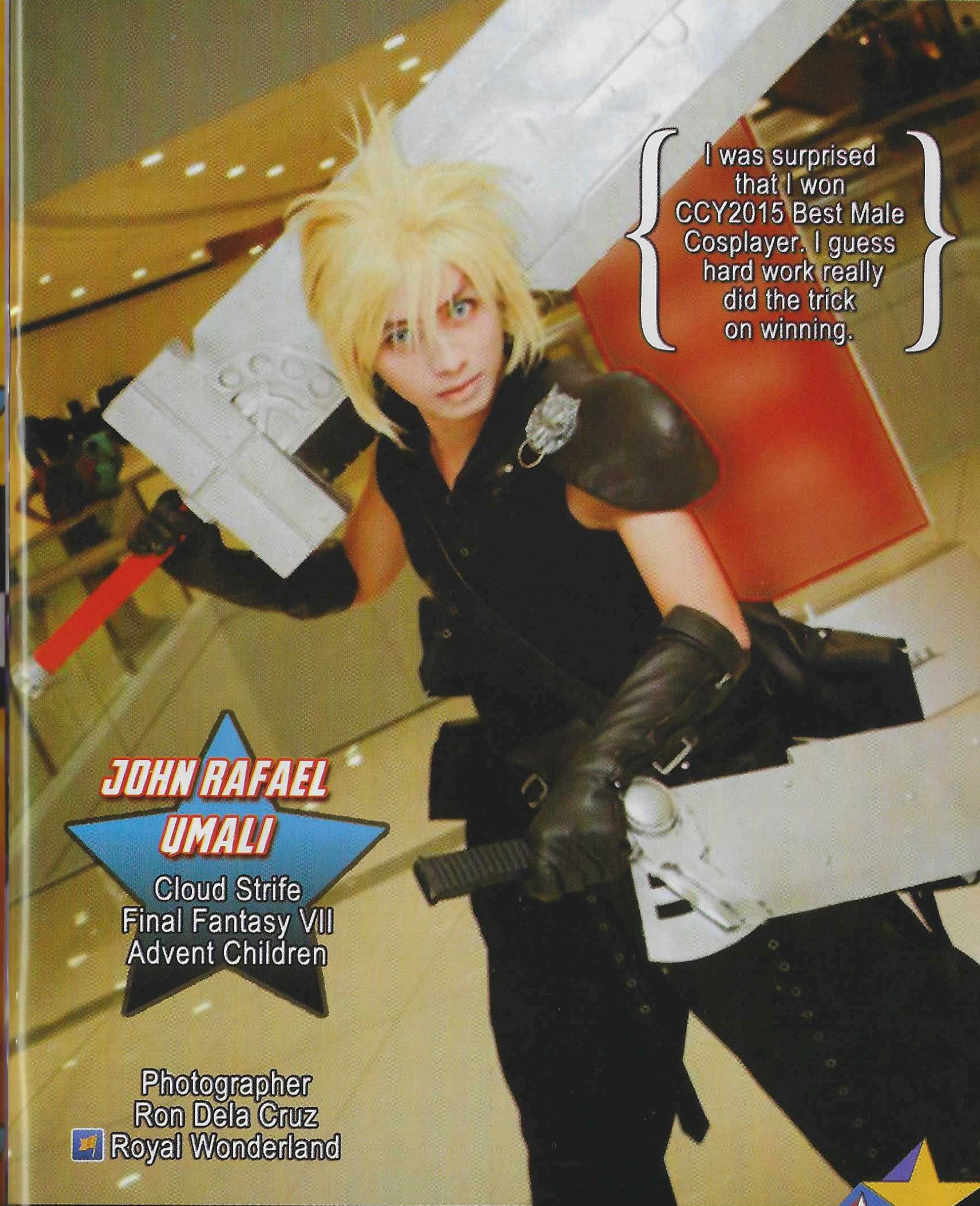
Gun Sniper  
Leena Special  
Zoids New Century



**IZAIAH LUKE  
BUELOS**

Gundam  
Heavyarms  
Mobile Suit  
Gundam Wing

# BEST MALE WINNER



I was surprised  
that I won  
CCY2015 Best Male  
Cosplayer. I guess  
hard work really  
did the trick  
on winning.

**JOHN RAFAEL  
UMALI**

Cloud Strife  
Final Fantasy VII  
Advent Children

Photographer  
Ron Dela Cruz  
Royal Wonderland





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It was a surprise!  
I was not expecting  
to win because there  
were a lot of good  
entries!  
I'm glad I joined.

**REIKA AMAHURA**

Ultimecia  
Final Fantasy VIII  
Final Fantasy Dissidia

Photographer:  
Imel Aimeru

f charlotte.x.sherry  
kazereivolt



If you're a  
champion, you  
have to have it  
in your  
heart!

**HYLE HILLIARD  
NARON**

Megatron  
Transformers Movie

Photographer:  
Christian Mack  
f arkadymac  
arkadymac.com



It's a tough  
competition this year.  
And I'm so glad to  
get the title with  
all the hard work  
I gave.

**MARY ROSELYN  
GUTIERREZ**

Arius  
Brave Frontier

Photographer:  
Jeff Ricalde

f JeRicPhotography  
thejericway.wordpress.com

I wanted to  
win CCY not  
just for myself  
but for  
my team.

**IZABEL CORTEZ**

Ultima Weapon  
Final Fantasy 8

Photographer:  
Christian Mack

f arkadymac  
arkadymac.com

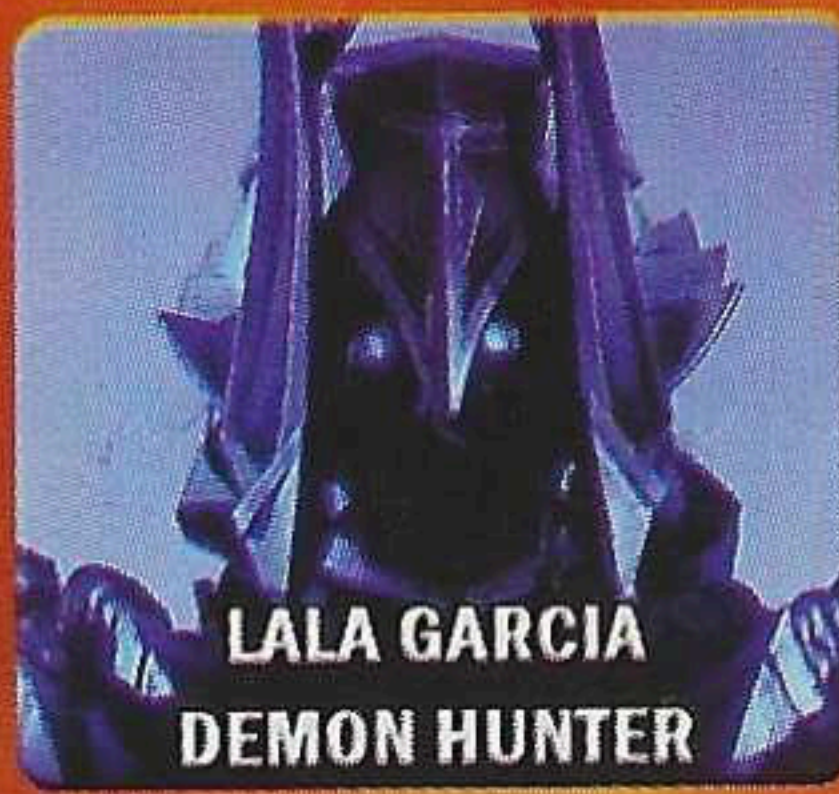




AIRE XIE  
ELISE



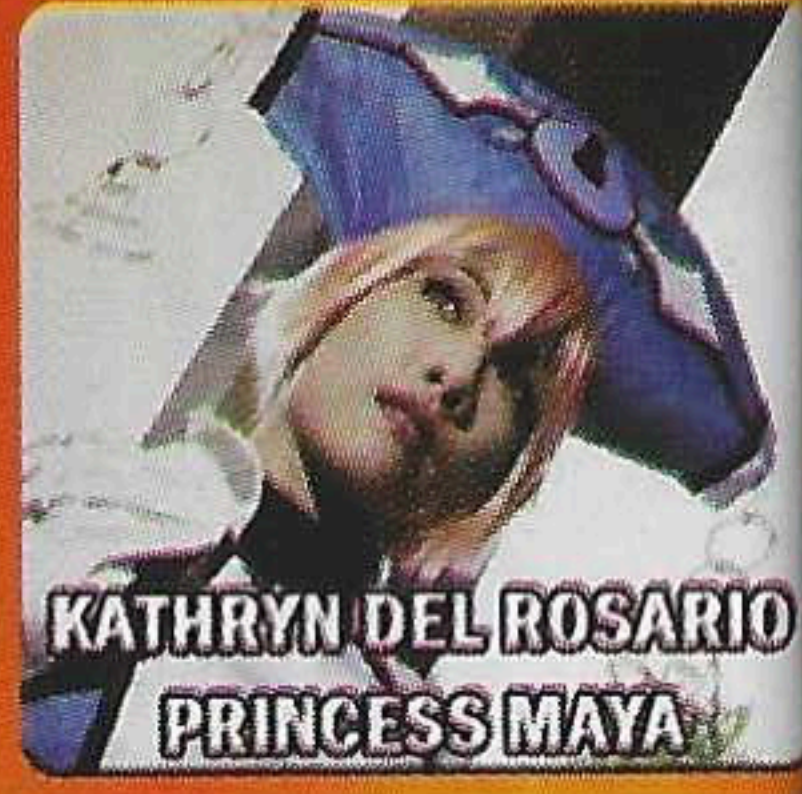
FRED LANDRITO  
BIKE SCOUT TROOPER



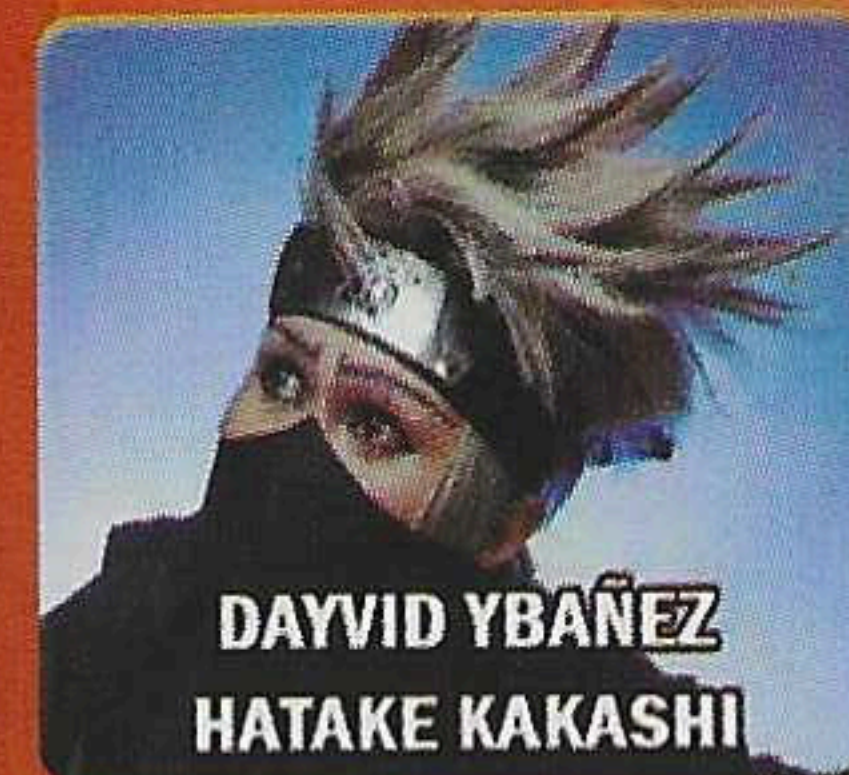
LALA GARCIA  
DEMON HUNTER



SHEILA MILLETTE NAVARRO  
LEGION COMMANDER



KATHRYN DEL ROSARIO  
PRINCESS MAYA



DAYVID YBAÑEZ  
HATAKE KAKASHI



MJ NEPACENA  
GENOS



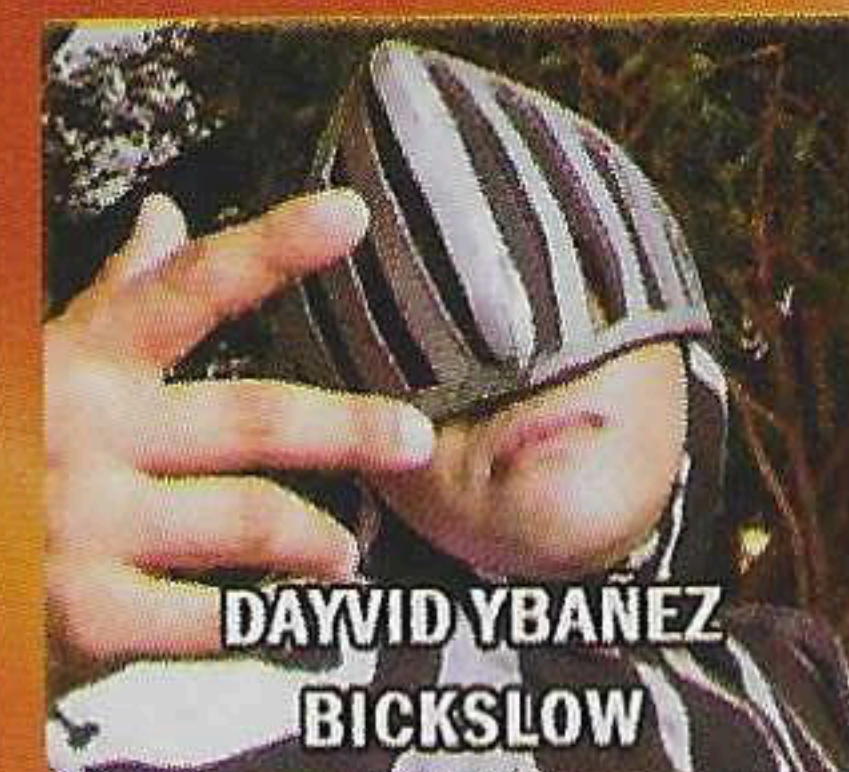
MAI ARIA  
RURI GOKU



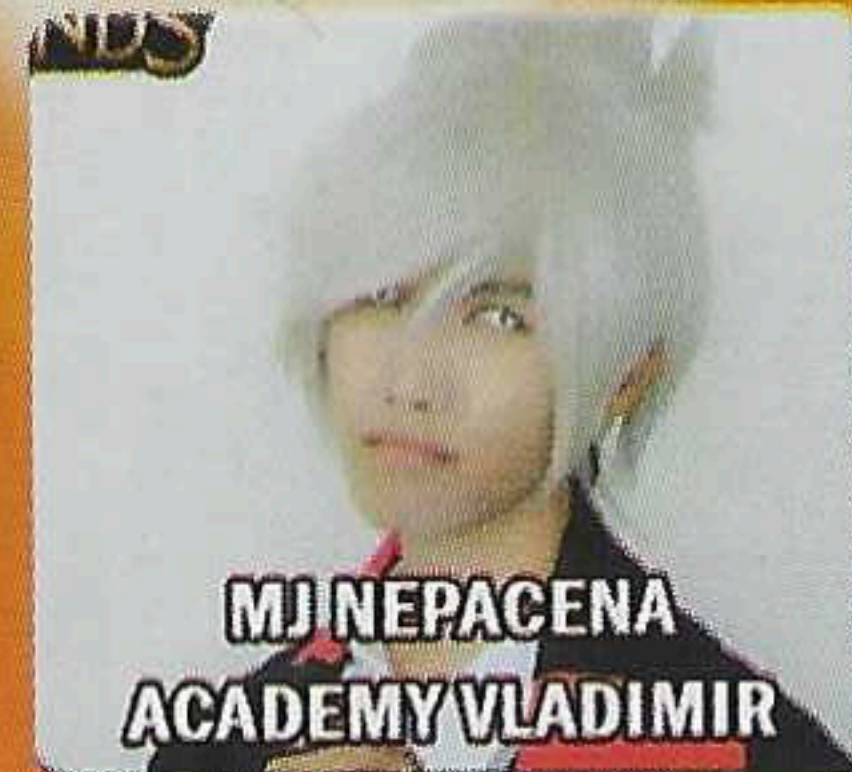
SHEILA MILLETTE NAVARRO  
RED CARD KATARINA



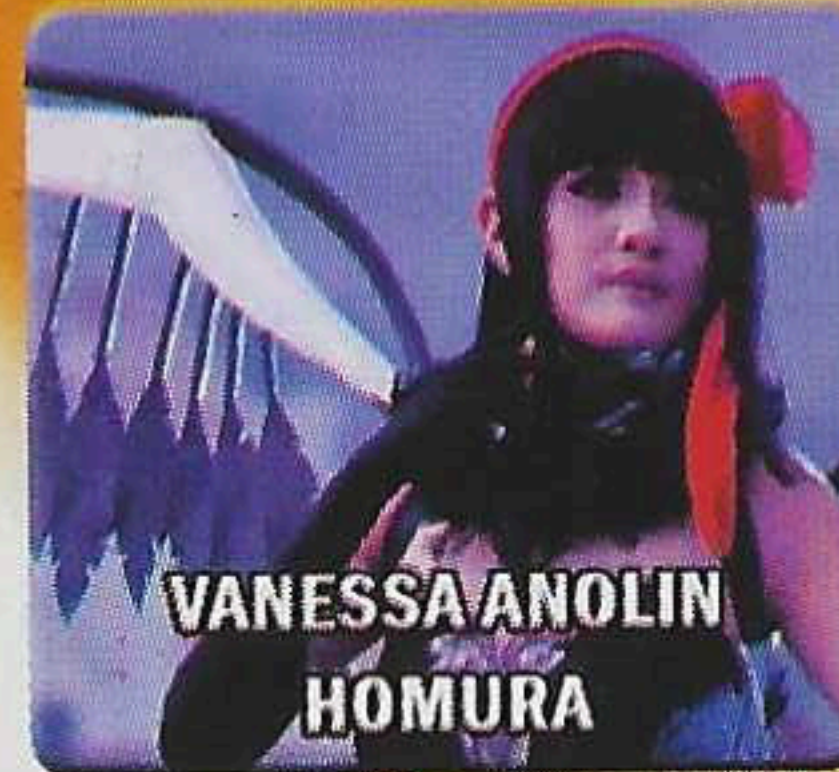
KATHRYN DEL ROSARIO  
JOSIE RIZAL



DAYVID YBAÑEZ  
BICKSLOW



MJ NEPACENA  
ACADEMY VLADIMIR



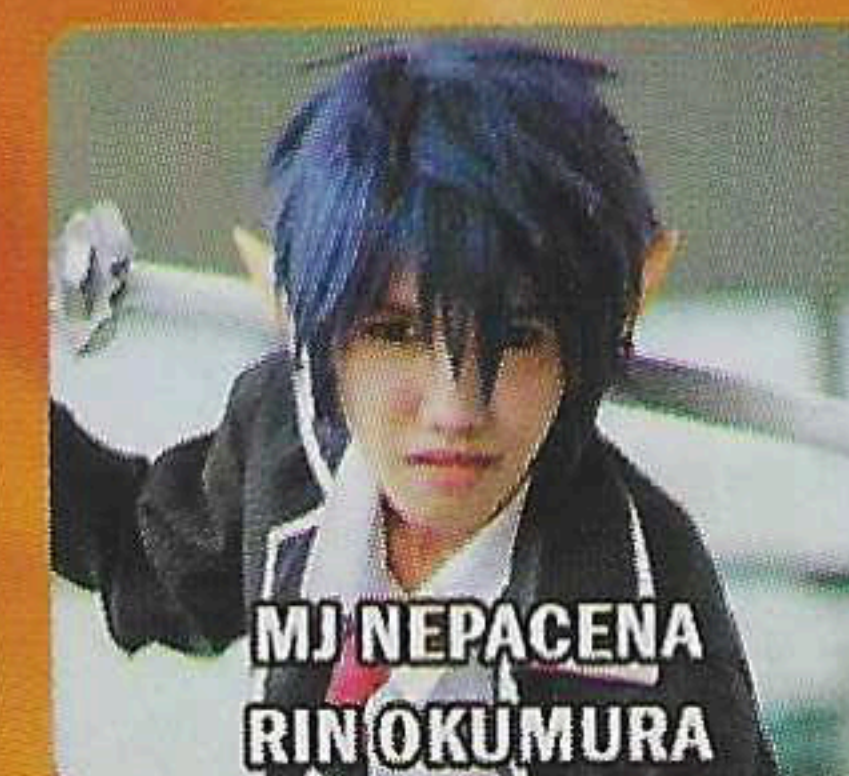
VANESSA ANOLIN  
HOMURA



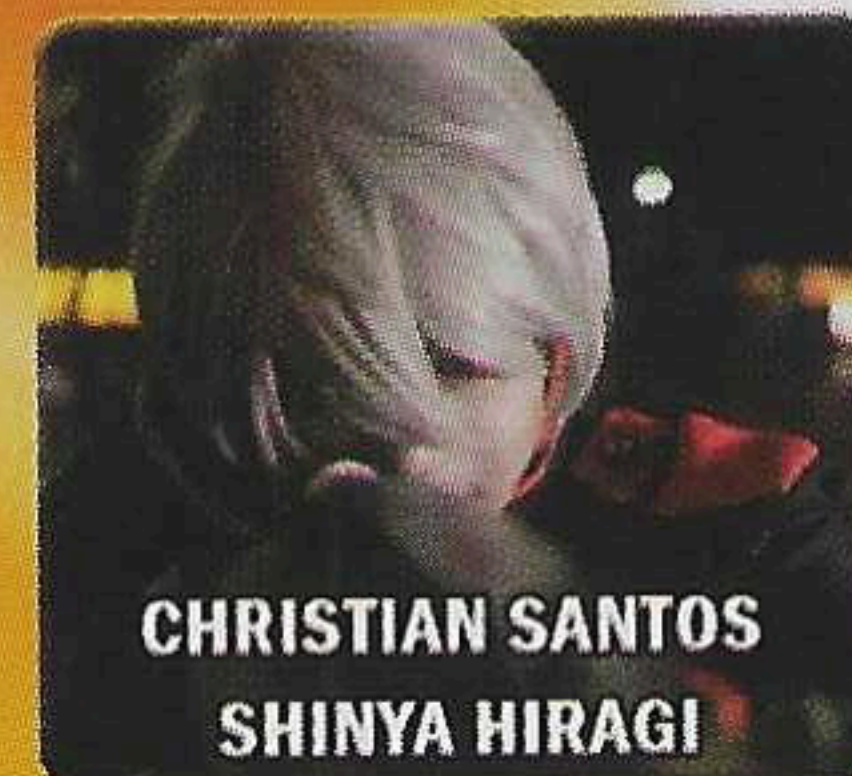
NIELCE ANNE DE QUIROZ  
CASTER MEDEA



KURI CURRY  
AIZ WALLENSTEIN



MJ NEPACENA  
RIN OKUMURA



CHRISTIAN SANTOS  
SHINYA HIRAGI



DIN AMPIL  
KAROLINA DEAN



MARIA MAI ARIA  
SHINKU (5TH DOLL)



KHYZE TOMAS  
SUPERGIRL



USA-CHAN PADUA  
TAKAO



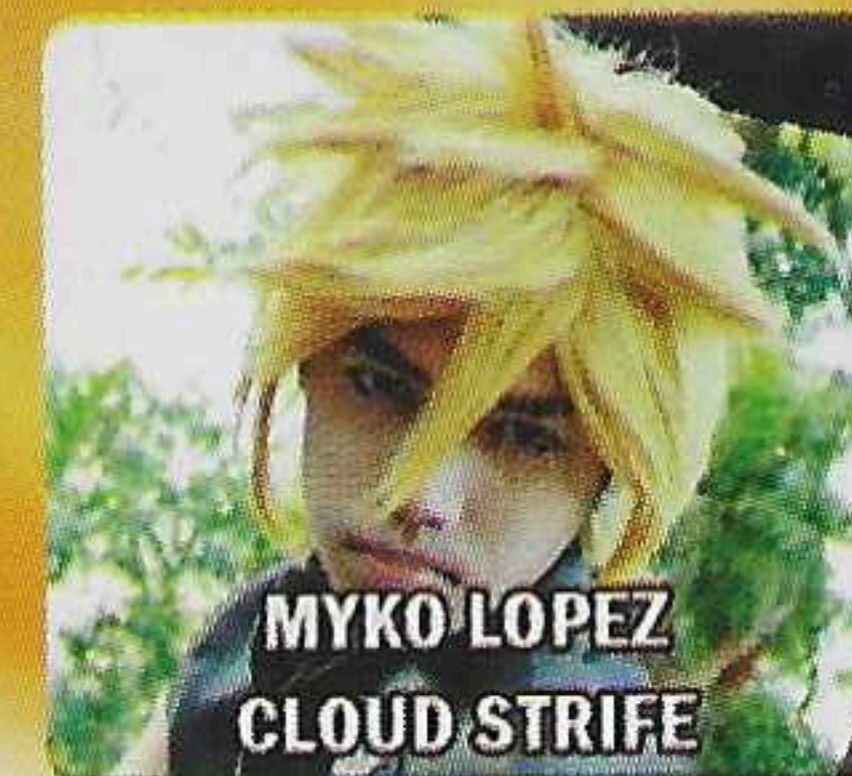
ANDRE LABESORES  
ROCKET RACCOON



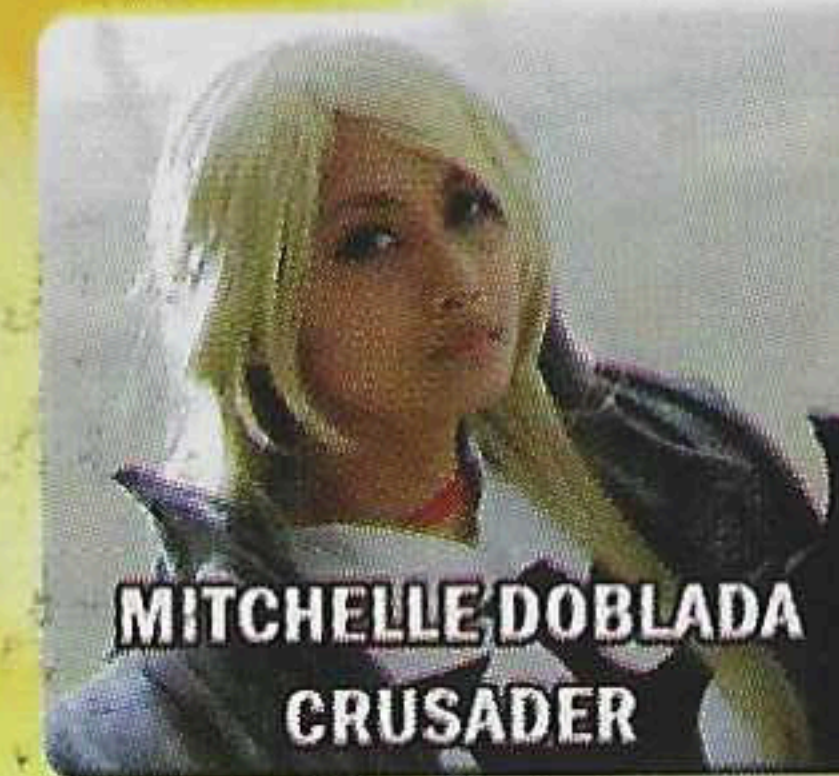
CARLA DE VILLA  
HEADPHONE ACTOR



MJ NEPACENA  
YUICHIRO HYAKUYA



MYKO LOPEZ  
CLOUD STRIFE



MITCHELLE DOBLADA  
CRUSADER



RIRIE YOHANE  
MAKI NISHIKINO



MARIA H. C. DIONISIO  
YONA HIME



JEC JUNILLER  
FIONA



THERESE ALIZEE RODIL  
KAMEN RIDER MANGO ARMS



MYKO LOPEZ  
VIRGO



ANDRE LABESORES  
JAWA



MAIQ EN-RIQUEZ  
FUSHIMI SARUHIKO



NOEL ATIENZA  
SUPERIOR SPIDERMAN



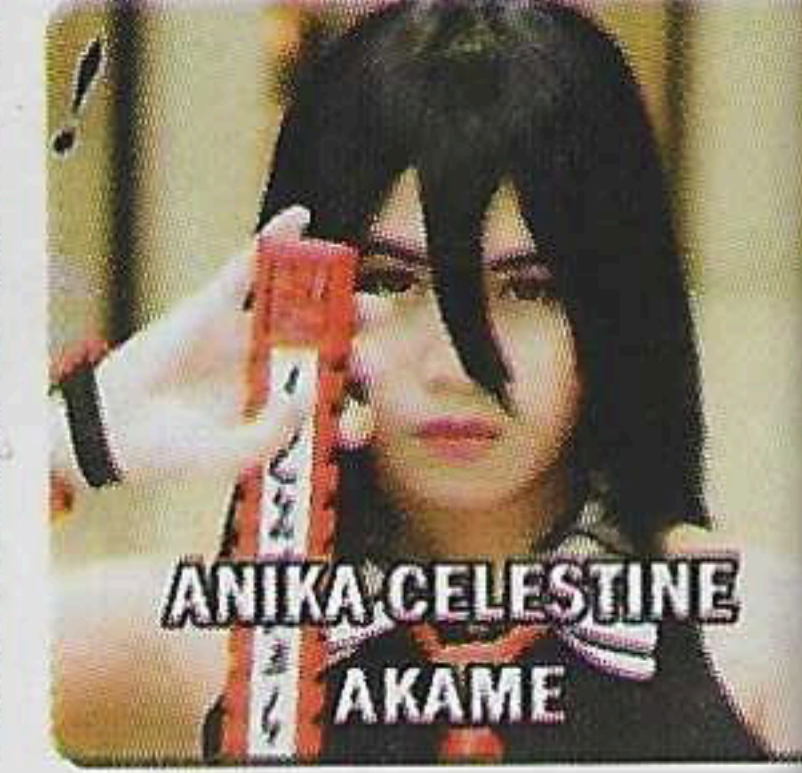
MYKO LOPEZ  
SOSUKE AIZEN



SHEILA MILLETTE NAVARRO  
SINON ASADA



REM ADELYNNE ROCA  
STAR GUARDIAN LUX



ANIKA CELESTINE  
AKAME



DIANNE GAVINO  
UMARU DOMA



ROSS DIONG  
MIRAJANE STRAUSS



SUIGIRO IORI  
CIEL PHANTOMHIVE



ISABEL OLASO  
CIEL



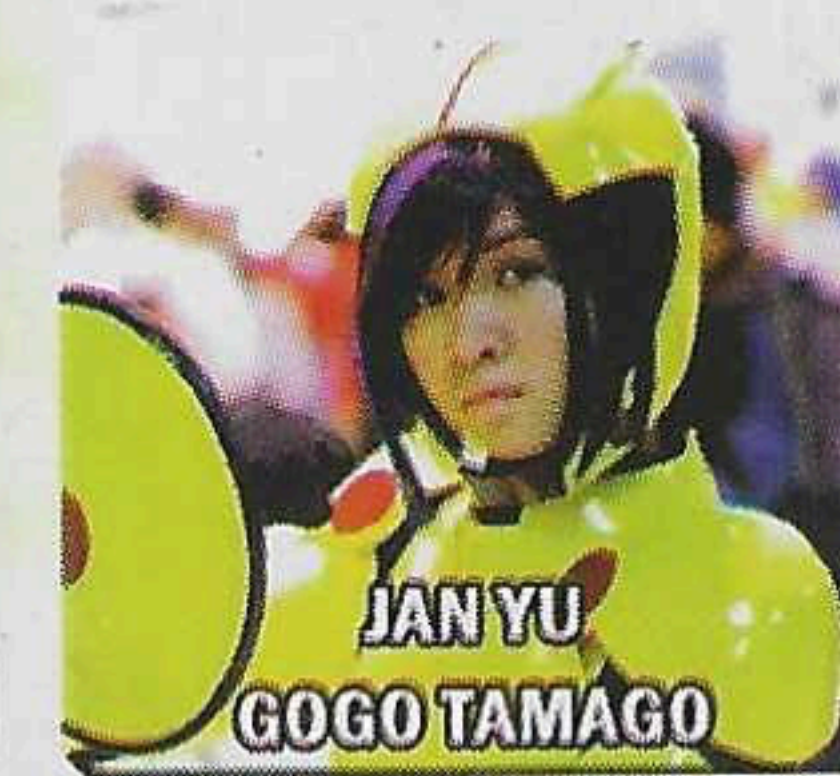
ETHAN LANTICAN  
ARMORED BATMAN



ABU TENDENCIA  
KESS KIELCE



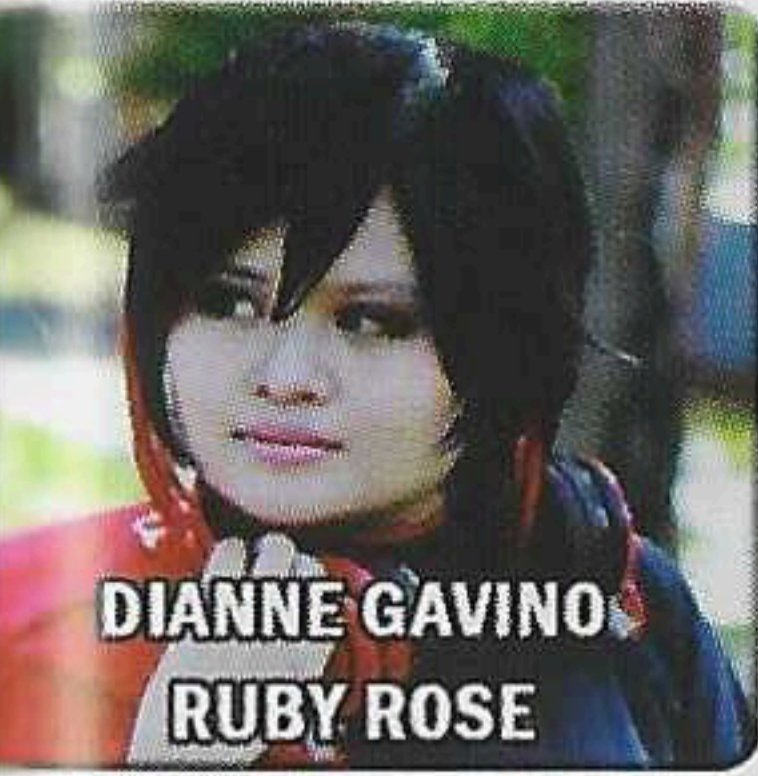
PIRLOW BILYON  
GUNZOU CHIHAYA



JAN YU  
GOGO TAMAGO



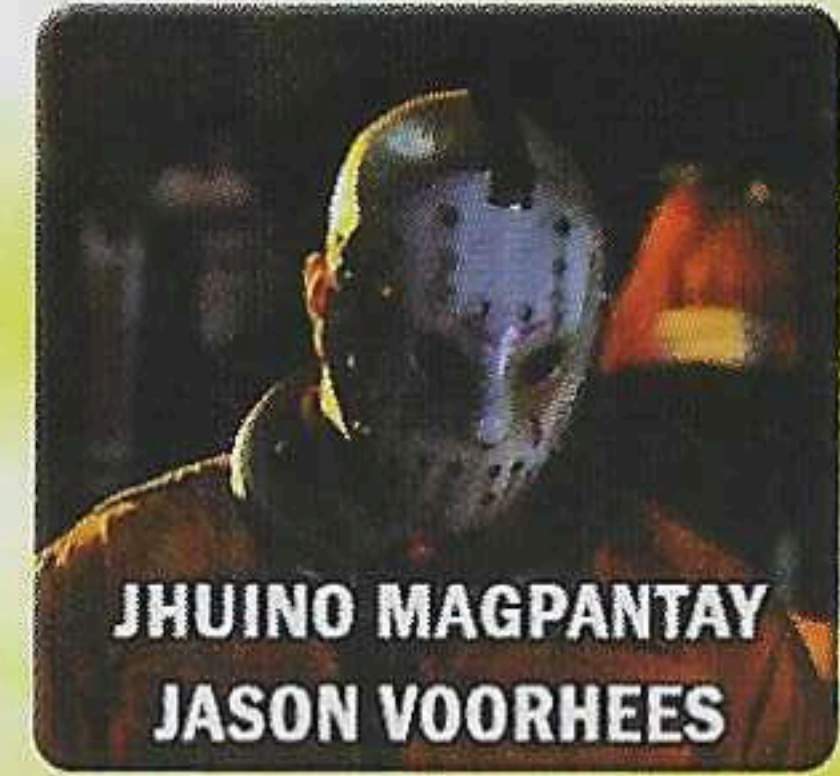
ANIKA CELESTINE  
CHITOGE



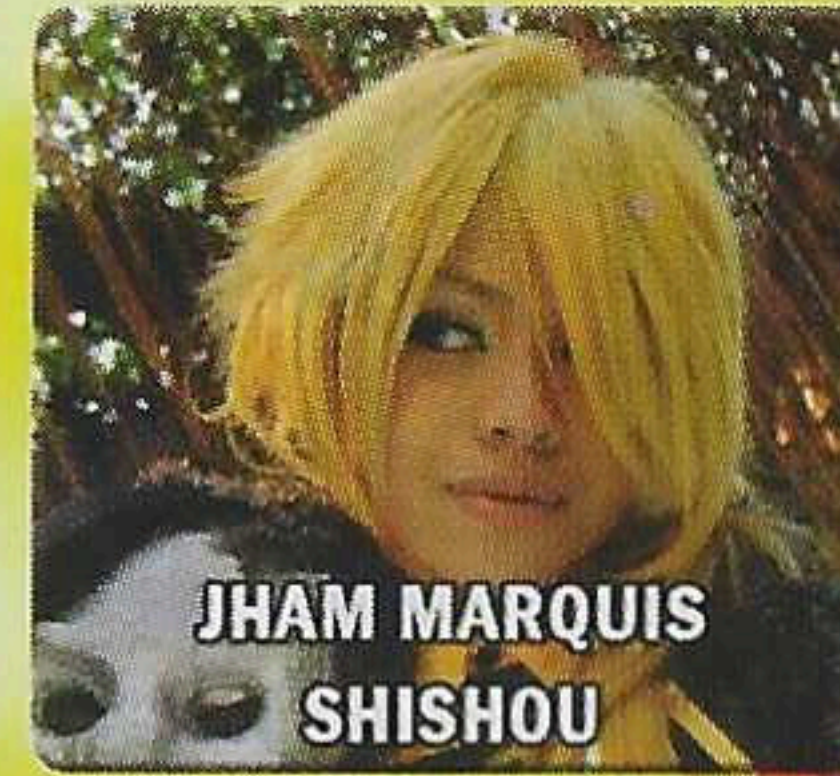
DIANNE GAVINO  
RUBY ROSE



AIRE XIE  
KRUL TEPES



JHUINO MAGPANTAY  
JASON VOORHEES



JHAM MARQUIS  
SHISHOU

# CONGRATULATIONS FROM COSPLAY.PH!

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FEBRUARY 20, 2016 @ FUNCTION ROOM 4, SMX CONVENTION CENTER, MALL OF ASIA COMPLEX, PASAY CITY



## COSPLAY GETS BETTER EVERY YEAR!

And I say this without any exaggeration. Each year since CCY 2009, I have been made witness to a plathora of the finest examples of cosplay in the Philippines, and there are no signs of stopping. Each nominee submitted is an example of passion, creativity and determination of every cosplayer, and I am happy to say that each year will always be something to look forward to because cosplay will never cease to amaze me! And as our Cosplay.ph President Pablo Bairan would always say, "Just keep on Cosplaying!"

Roberto V. Wong  
CCY Project Manager  
Cosplay.ph Director

COSPLAY COSTUME  
OF THE YEAR  
2015

CCY2015 NOMINEES

COSPLAY.PH

Cosplay.ph Cosplay Costume of the Year would like to thank the following photographers:  
Irving Go • Florenio Mediavilla Jaballas • Michael Reyes • Royal Wonderland • JeRic Photography • Ron Dela Cruz • Luis Jeff Encontro • Peppy Atlas • Dale Perias • Jryan Quines • Jovi Claire • Kevin Jeffrey "Jipri" Pingul • NNN (Naoki And Near) • Dianne Garcia • Teofil Emerson Bardo • Christian Mack • Nicholas Tan "Vaxzone" • Snapshot Fantasy • Jad Dizon • Red Abuel • Marinel Marcelo • Francis Legarda • Irukanji Photography • Pet Loyola Decena • Brent Lawenko Calupaz • Fritz Anthony Taquiqui • Jfreezy Photography • S.A.M. Photography • Jupiter Fontanos • John Carlo de Guzman • Brian Rodelas • Mark Celtic Buenaventura • Joan Lantican • Joseph Michael Abas • Kelleen Dela Flor • Jose Fernando Caasi • Christopher Loyola Decena • Jeff Ricalde • Brian Rodelas





# 学びます

This is our new section, MANABIMASU meaning "Learn". For this issue, I will teach you simple sentence construction.

I suggest you look up a list of Japanese particles with their meaning, uses and examples. It's also good to have a dictionary to practice with.

## PATTERN #1

The most basic is saying that (something) is (something). Like "I am Kent" and "The weather is hot"

English structure: **A** is **B**.  
Japanese structure: **A** は **B** です。  
Pronunciation: **A** wa **B** desu.

Note that **A** is a noun subject and **B** is object and can be a noun or an adjective.

**Wa** (は) is an object marker. It's meant to point at the object of the sentence. It's not equal to "is".

**Desu** (です) is a copula verb meaning "to be" and connects A to B.

Here we learn to introduce ourselves formally:

**My name is Kent.**  
**私は** は **ケント** です。  
**Watashi** wa **Kento** desu.

You can also tell your age. Of course now, the copula is not "is" but "am" but we use **wa** は all the same. This is why I mentioned that **wa** は is not equal to "is"

**I am 10 years old.**  
**私は** は **じゅっさい** です。  
**Watashi** wa **jussai** desu.

Let's try telling our nationality. For Filipino, the Nihongo is Firipinjin (フィリピン人) -jin is telling that it's your nationality.

**I am Filipino.**  
**私は** は **フィリピン人** です。  
**Watashi** wa **Firipinjin** desu.

I hope you practice with this sentence pattern before going to the next. I will be tackling **It is B (Bです)** in the next issue. For now, Familiarize yourself with some of the words that could be used in place of **A**.

| English     | Kana | Pronunciation |
|-------------|------|---------------|
| I           | わたし  | watashi       |
| he          | かれ   | kare          |
| she         | かのじょ | kanojo        |
| that person | あのひと | anohito       |
| this        | これ   | kore          |
| that        | それ   | sore          |
| over there  | あれ   | are           |

## Particles (not complete)

| Particle | Function/s   |
|----------|--|
| No の     | Possessive adjective<br>Turning nouns into adjectives<br>Informal Question Marker        |
| Ka か     | Formal Question Marker<br>"or"   |
| Mo も     | "also" or "too"<br>"both... and..."<br>"neither... nor..."<br>"I can't even..." emphasis |

## Node のでBecause

|      |                                |
|------|--------------------------------|
| O を  | Object marker                  |
| To と | "and"<br>"when" or "if"        |
| Ni に | "in" or "at" location and time |

I can only fit and explain (?) some of the particles. Please find a better list for yourself and practice, practice, practice!  
*tutorial by Kent*

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## BAKUON!

by James



Hobby anime – gotta love them. There's almost one for almost every pastime – or passion – there is: singing, dancing, gaming, sports, even meta ones like making manga and anime. Well, how about motorcycles? Definitely! So, is the cast mostly made up of manly, edgy, delinquent-like guys and one or two sexy babes? Nope; it's actually a pair of high school girls. So, do you find that interesting or intriguing? If so, then you're likely to become enthralled with the motorcycle-riding lifestyle, as well as with **Bakuon!**

The story revolves around **Sakura Hane**, a high school girl who gets into motorcycling just because she hates the fact that bikes need to be pedaled, which is more daunting when uphill, not to mention that they're a lot slower than their motorized counterparts. Thankfully, she meets **Onsa Amano**, a motorcyclist who happens to be one of her classmates. At first, Sakura is surprised by the fact that Onsa brought a motorbike to school – something she didn't know is permitted by school rules – and later on the two of them joined the **Motorcycle Club**. Hilarity, friendship, character development, and hobby-related jargon and introspection ensues.

There isn't much to say about the art style and the animation, as they're quite

well-made, albeit pretty generic. The motorcycles, however, seem to be a lot more detailed than the girls who drive them. And for an anime of this kind, it's justified, as the bikes are as much of a star as the characters are; after all, this is a hobby anime about them. Speaking of which, the anime, for better or worse, is a very niche one for motorcycle drivers and enthusiasts. So if you're getting into this in hopes of getting into the hobby, or you just want to burn some time in general, then this may not be for you, unless it clicks with your taste for some strange reason. If it does, then you're in for a treat, as the show gives off rather inspiring and thought-provoking commentaries on motorcycling, friendship, dreams and ambitions, and even life itself. And while it's not always enthusiastic about the hobby, it does lend a lot of deep insights related to it, so it's not hard to appreciate it once you truly get into it.

All in all, **Bakuon** is strange in a good way and in its own right, as it's a rather different, uplifting, yet somewhat sensible presentation of the motorcycling lifestyle in anime form. And the best part? It's about more than just the hobby it shines the light on. So if you're curious about it, give it a shot; you have nothing to lose and everything – including what would probably become a new passion – to gain.







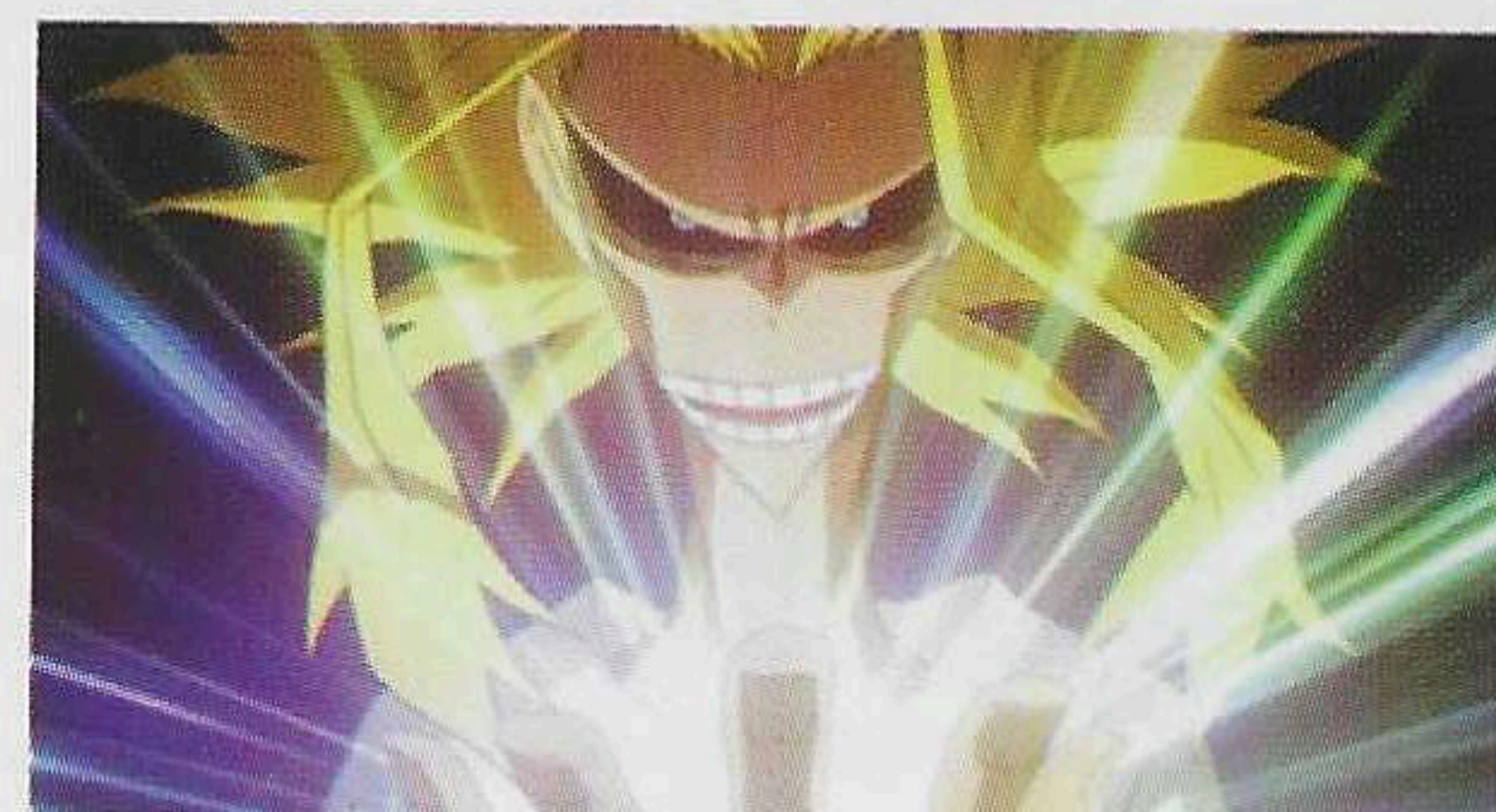
# BOKU NO HERO ACADAMIA

by James



Ninjas, pirates, monkey-like alien martial artists – Weekly Shonen Jump, the biggest shonen manga magazine in Japan, has published many titles of the eponymous genre featuring different kinds of super-powered individuals fighting for the virtues they believe in, and many of them have had successful anime adaptations whose episodes run in the hundreds. So, what's next for Japan's premier manga giant? Superheroes. An awesome idea, as the world is so enthralled with them thanks to Hollywood, and they embody many good and noble ideals. Get powered up with **My Hero Academia**.

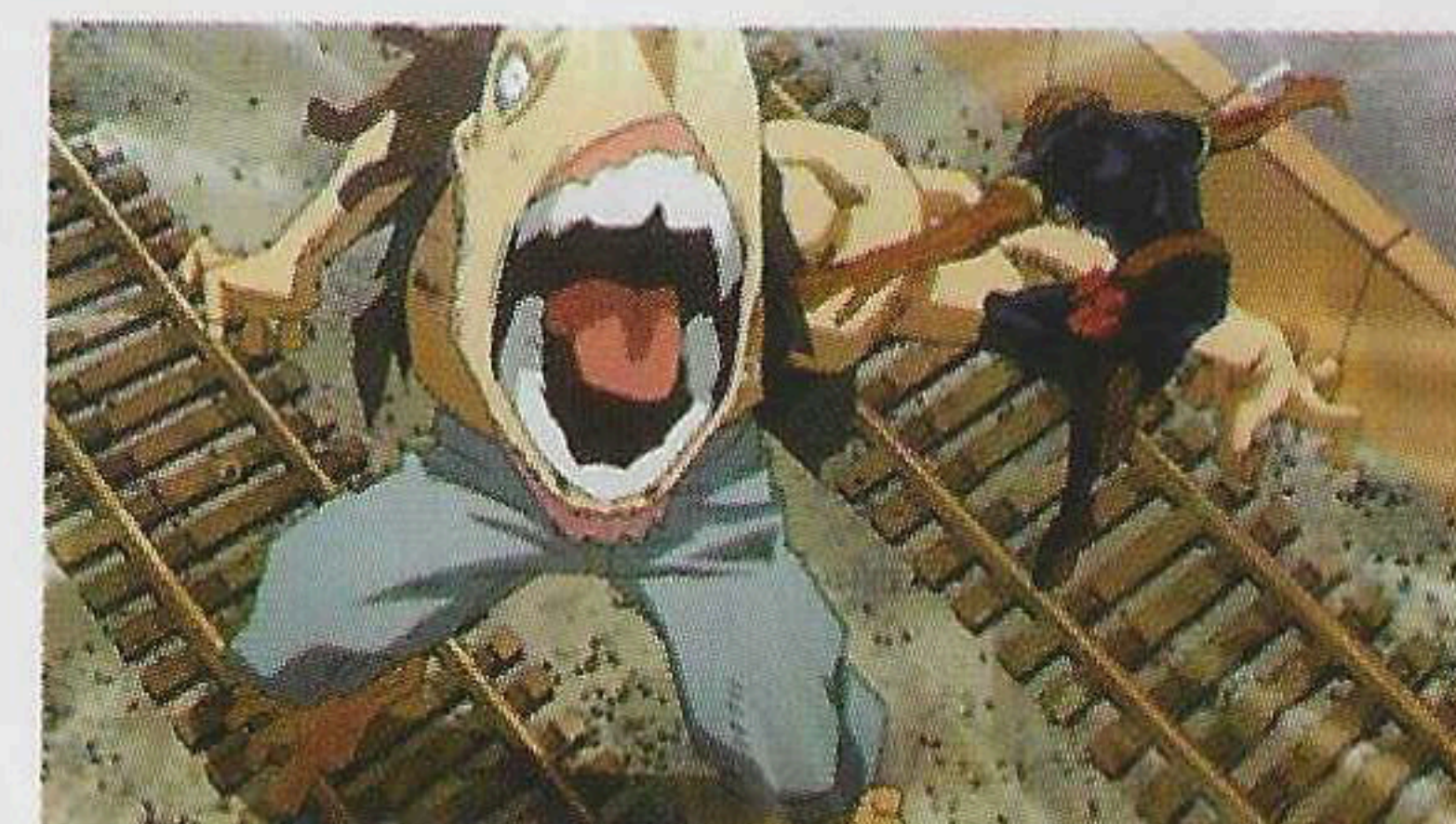
Based on the manga of the same name by author **Horikoshi Kohei**, the show is set in a time when **Quirks**, AKA superpowers, have been recently discovered, giving rise to both superpowered criminals, and of course, superheroes. Living in that amazing point in history is **Izuku Midoriya**, a kid who has always wanted to be a hero so that he can defend the weak. In fact, he even wants to study in UA, which is the most prestigious hero high school in Japan. But alas, Izuku has no Quirks, and is therefore deemed unfit to become one. His fate, however, changes when he meets **All Might**, the #1 ranking hero. And in a surprising turn of events, All Might takes Izuku under his wing, and passes onto him his Quirk, giving our not-so-little hero the chance to become what he's always dreamed of. The road ahead of him is tough, but Izuku, who has lots of determination and heart, is ready



to face the challenges of being a hero.

The anime couldn't get more cookie-cutter than your usual underdog shonen story, but that hardly matters for long-time fans of the genre, as long as it's done right, and **Boku no Hero Academia** does. It plays the tropes straight, and builds on the emotional investment of its readers by making the characters relatable. However, with **Boku no Hero Academia** being a shonen series, it's not enough that the show has a lot of heart; it also should have a lot – if not at least a satisfying amount – of superpowered battles. Thankfully, **Boku no Hero Academia** doesn't disappoint, as the show has a lot of Quirk-fueled fights that really feel like anime versions of what we see in Hollywood-made hero scrap-fests. And last but definitely not least, the world building of **Boku no Hero Academia** is just sublime. The unique, lighthearted, cartoony, and quirky (pun intended) art style – nothing less from **Bones** – the hero-related legislations and institutions in the setting, and the establishment of the nature of Quirks all make the anime really feel like a show that is set in a living, breathing realm full of superheroic goodness.

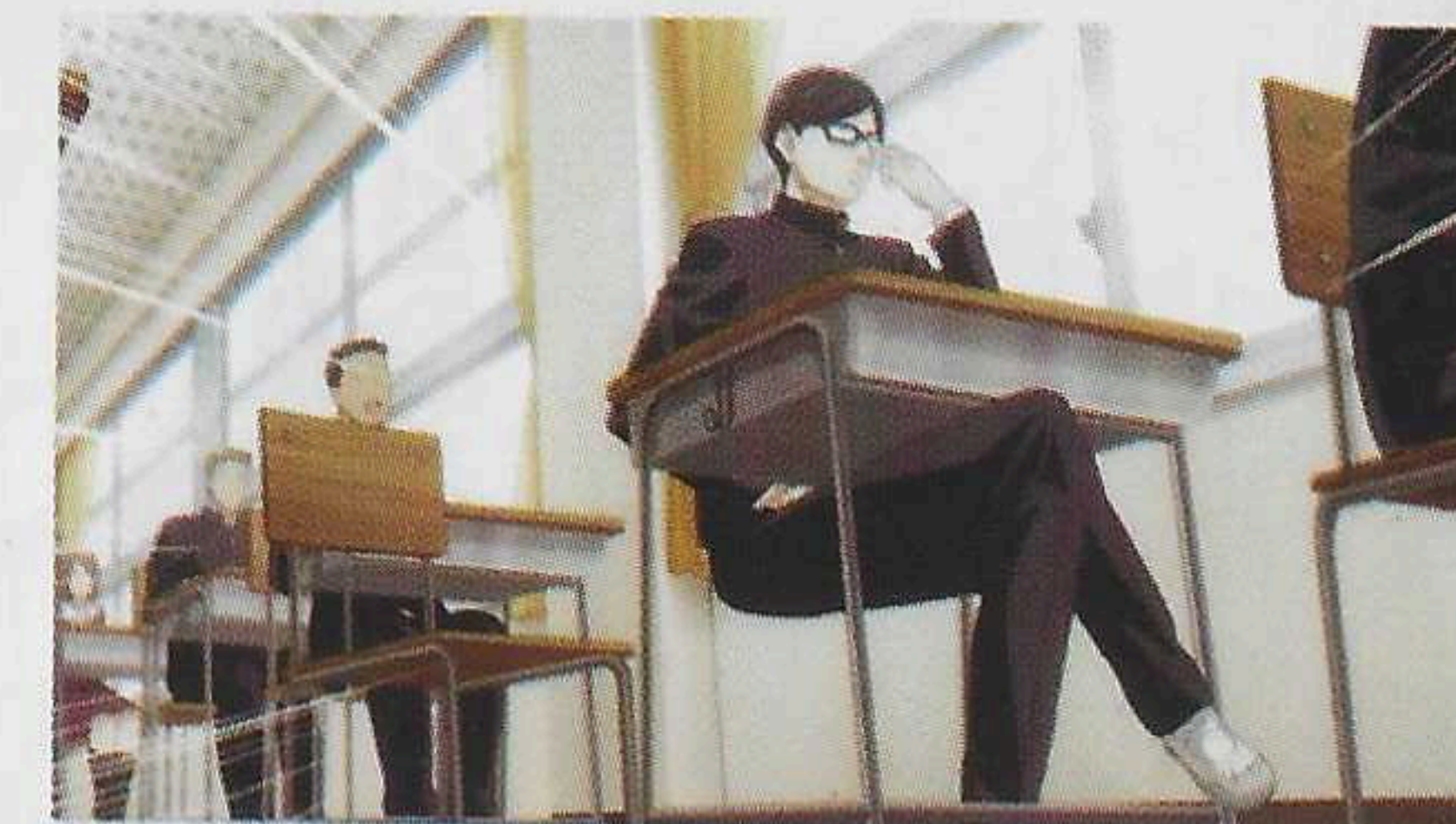
Heroes, super or otherwise, and their good deeds never go out of fashion, just like the shonen genre. And if you have a penchant for those two things, or if you just want a good feel-good battle anime that isn't too heavy and has lots of lessons to impart, then **Boku no Hero Academia** is sure to save your day.





# SAKAMOTO DESU GA?

by James



We're just human; nobody's perfect that's what we tell others and ourselves whenever we commit a slip-up or two. But what about those who do not make mistakes, ever? Is there such a person? In the world of anime, yes. But even in a realm of 2D near-perfection, a girl or boy like that is hard to come by, as even the most flawless of characters err at least once or twice. But not **Sakamoto Desu Ga?** That's a question and the title of the anime. If your answer is no, then you definitely should get to know him a lot better.

**Sakamoto Desu Ga?**, which can be translated as either **Haven't You Heard? I'm Sakamoto** or **I'm Sakamoto, You Know**, revolves around the titular character who, like how he has been previously described, is perfect. He does no wrong, is super-cool, and is always on top of any situation. Because of this, the girls love him, the sensible boys look up to him, and the jealous ones – mostly because he's stealing their girls' attention – try to do him harm. But like what was said before, because Sakamoto knows how to handle any curveball thrown at him, he'd always come out unscathed. That is not only the premise of the series, but also its usual plot, which is told in an episodic format, or at most in separate but related arcs.

In addition, rather than solely focusing on Sakamoto all the time, the story also shows the lives of those who are around him, as well as how they changed because of our eponymous hero. It's a rather brilliant move, considering that perfect characters like Sakamoto do not have much room for character development, and focusing solely on him would make the manga rather boring because of the lack of variety. But of course, despite giving the other characters their much deserved spotlight to keep the series going, the anime is still and will always be about Sakamoto's over-the-top and hilarious ways to show his impeccability. And the clear, crisp, and crazy animation, which is the handiwork of **Studio Deen**, is a great help in adding to the serious humor to the series.

All in all, **Sakamoto Desu Ga** is a rather fun anime that is easy to get into. With all the funny, crazy, and improbable antics going on, plus the rather simple but undoubtedly heartfelt moments that are few and far in between but are always golden, it's not enough that you have heard about Sakamoto; you should also see perfection personified for yourself.







# Girl Gamers Not a Hoax

by lizac 3.0

NETOGE NO YOME  
WA ONNA NO KO  
JANAI TO OMOTTA?



A confession gone wrong is what urged **Hideki** (or **Rusian** as he is called in the MMORPG **Legendary Age**) to think that only guys exist in online games. He once proposed online marriage to a girl during a game, but the player was in fact an old man in real life. Due to sheer embarrassment, he never opens up that topic to anyone, anymore, ever!

Until one day when one of his online friends, **Ako**, proposes online marriage. Hideki relives his oath to never get involved with girl characters in the game. **Ako** is very persistent, so Hideki hesitantly gives in. He tells about his tragic online love story to his guild **Alley Cat**, which might be helpful to explain why he is skeptic about people online whenever they say their real gender. **Ako** eagerly claims she is a girl, so Guild Master proposes an offline meet-up to confirm. It turns out that **Ako**, Guild Master **Apricot**, and even **Schwein** are all girls from the same high school as his! Is this good or bad news for Hideki?

**Netoge no Yome wa Onna no ko Janai to Omotta?** (English title: **And you thought there is never a girl**

**online?**) is originally a romantic comedy light novel written by **Shibai Kineko** and illustrated by **Hisasi**. Due to its popularity, it was adapted into a manga and now, a spring anime produced by the animation studio **Project 9**. **Netoge no Yome** explores the world of online gaming and how the characters interact with one another. The game **Legendary Age** itself is not only portrayed as a game on PC, but as a side story necessary to show how the plot is developing. The audience can see the characters talk for real, and not just through online chatting. It's a realistic setting for a game with amazing superpower displays and the mob of monsters that the characters have to fight.

It's also worthy of note that **Netoge no Yome** shows online friends can be your real life friends, sometimes even closer than the people you are with physically. Many people with guilds and chat groups who first met online can relate to this interesting anime. Tempted to get into the world of online gaming? There are more girls than you think, and it would be fun!

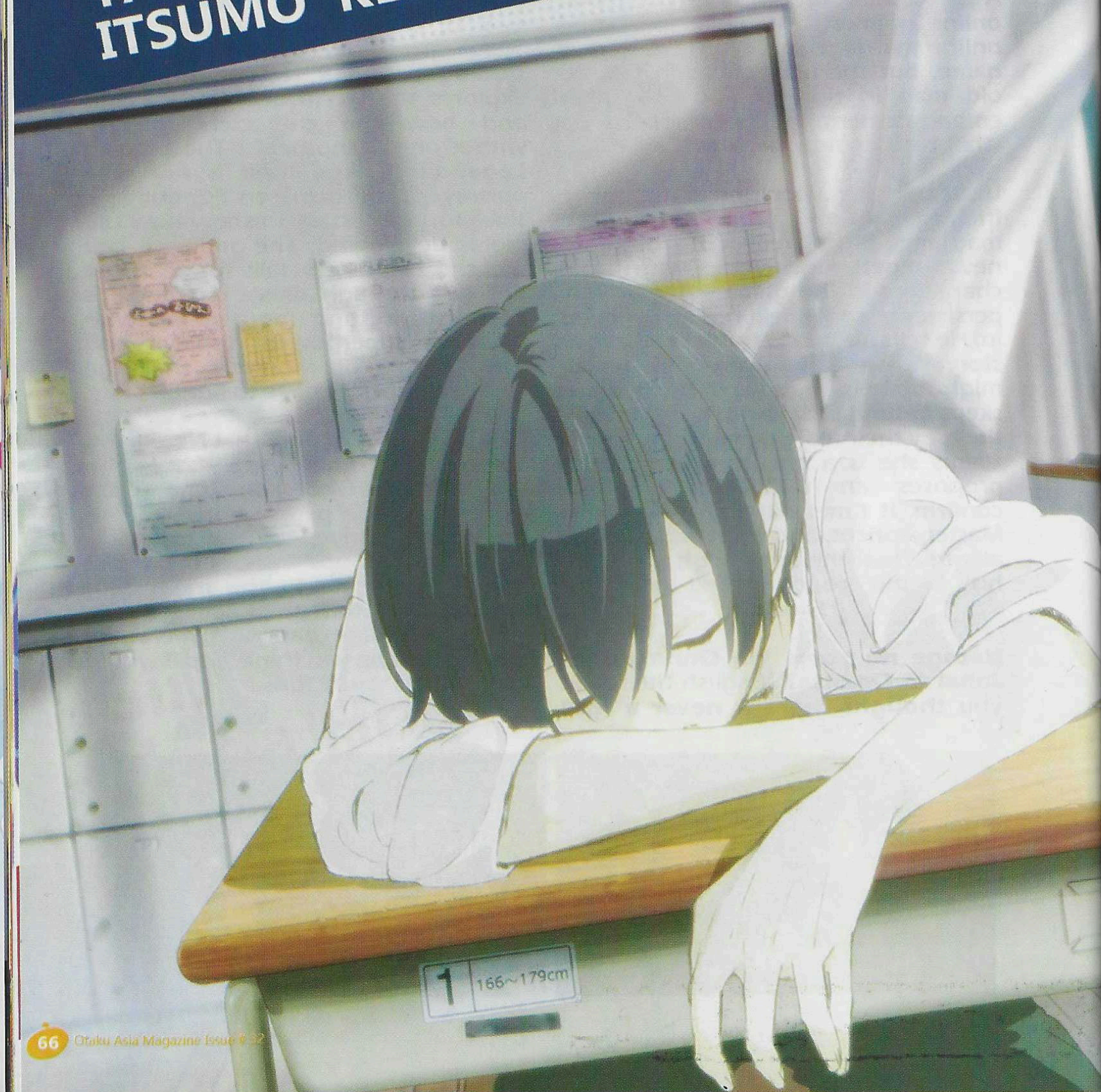




# Eternal Resting Bored Face

by lizac 3.0

## TANAKA-KUN WA ITSUMO KEDARUGE



Its only natural for a bored person to find ways to kill boredom such as read a book, watch a movie, or hang out with friends. But theres one person who never fights his uneventful life, and instead, welcomes it with arms wide open. He even prays to the gods for adventures to stray and never find him. This boy is **Tanaka**, a high school student. He dozes off most of the time and only depends on **Ohta**, his reliable friend. As expected, Tanaka is neither a part of any club in school, nor does he have a huge circle of friends. Does he ever get excited? His face doesnt show, and we will never know.

Tanaka has a very stoic face that a girl was inspired to become his apprentice in being listless. **Miyano** is his classmate who belongs to the energetic bunch. The road to being listless is difficult for an enthusiastic girl like Miyano, but she is not giving up. From there, Tanaka failed to dodge an unadventurous life and keeps getting more involved in peoples concerns in their lives.

**Tanaka-kun wa Itsumo Kedaruge** is originally an on-going comedy, slice of life manga written and illustrated

by **Nozomi Uda** in 2014. It is published by **Square Enix** in the magazine **Gangan Online**. The manga instantly became popular among female readers particularly and each volume is included in the Top 20 Oricon manga charts. An anime adaptation was later on produced by the animation studio **Silver Link** with twelve episodes, which aired last April of this year.

Ironically, even though the anime shows Tanakas apathetic face half the time, the show is not boring because of its dry humor. You can see how determined he is to avoid adventures and energetic people, and it is one of the entertaining points in the anime. He is the number one expert in being listless, but he cant seem to say no that much to people, especially his friends. Maybe theres more to his personality than what he shows outside, or maybe Tanaka is just plain bored!

Find out more about Tanakas disinterest in everything and his love for sleeping in this hilarious anime, **Tanaka wa Itsumo Kedaruge**, and you will learn many pieces of good advice about school and life from each character, even from Tanaka-kun!





# Bittersweet Letters from the Future

by lizac 3.0

ORANGE



"If only I did it, is a phrase we shouldn't be saying, but most of us do anyway. Not only is it a lost cause, but this phrase expresses regrets and remorse. It's the things we did wrongly, or the things we didn't do, that shatter us when we remember them. Regrets that last a lifetime are deep-rooted from the fact that we simply cannot change them no matter how hard we worked in the present and the future. However, if there is a chance to change the past in a parallel world, the if only's might turn into happy moments.

Sixteen-year-old **Takamiya Naho** gets this unsettling opportunity to change the course of time. She finds a letter written to her ten years from the present time. Her 26-year-old self in the future asks her to change the mistakes she did in the past. Who would believe such a prank? Where did the letter come from? But every detail on it has been correct, like accurate predictions.

It all starts in the opening ceremony in spring with the transfer student, **Naruse Kakeru**. The letter states, You invite Kakeru to hang out, but he refuses. This once, don't invite him at all. At that time it was more of a simple command than a warning. But the letters that follow say that Kakeru won't be with them 10 years from the present, so Naho has to watch him closely. Together with her other friends, **Suwa**, **Hagita**, **Takako**, and **Azusa**, Naho has to make the most out of their high school days with Kakeru before it's too late.

**Orange** is an on-going slice-of-life shoujo/seinen manga written and illustrated by **Ichigo Takano** in 2012. It has five volumes, each one selling more than thousands of copies. A live action film was released in December 2015 and became a blockbuster hit. Now an anime adaptation is set to air in July 2016. Hana Kanazawa makes a major comeback as Naho's seiyuu after a lack of roles in spring anime. Other seiyuu cast includes Seiichirou Yamashita as Kakeru, Makoto Furukawa as Suwa, Rika Kinugawa as Takako, Kazuyuki Okitsu as Hagita, and Natsumi Takamori as Azusa. Orange makes it to the list of top summer anime to look forward to.

The presentation of scenes in the manga shifts from the present time to the future and vice versa. It shows the young and vibrant lives of the characters in high school, and it also shows the characters' lives without Kakeru in the future. Although the manga **Orange** shows cute interactions among the characters, especially the budding romance between Naho and Kakeru, it also taps on the theme of severe, recurring depression. The mood shifts from light to heavy as revelations unfold. Fans look forward to both the similarities and the changes that would take place in the anime.

Don't regret; read the manga or watch the anime and learn from the characters' experiences. Join them in their journey through time as they discover the most important moments of their lives.





## CHARACTER BIO

### Izuku Midoriya Hero For All

by Ann

Not everyone is born lucky, but if you're like Izuku, then who knows? You might become the greatest hero of all time! Izuku Midoriya is one of the best epitome of how strong determination and hard work can get you where you want to be even when luck has sometimes turned you down too many times.

Born Quirkless, or without any super power, Izuku is bullied since he was four in a world already full of people with Quirks, but this does not stop him from admiring the top hero, All Might. His admiration leads to his great desire to become just like him, "saving people with a fearless smile." However, his first way of saving someone who happens to be his childhood friend (and bully) is not something he does with a fearless smile as it seems like his body just went on auto pilot. While he is not able to be as useful as he wants to be, this heroic act convinces All Might to turn him into his successor, the receiver of the Quirk One For All, a combination of the Quirks of various people.

Still, the first step in Izuku's hero journey begins with a ten-month rigorous training under All Might, but Izuku manifests his firm will by promising to work harder than everyone else if he wants to reach the level of his personal savior. From being a skinny, disheartened, and timid boy, he becomes a muscular man with more confidence and greater courage, perfect as the vessel of One For All. With this, he becomes ready to enter UA Academy (also called Yuuei), the school known as the producer of heroes all over the world.

Aside from his physical transformation because of his wonderful attitude, Izuku is undeniably intelligent. This, together with his habit of taking notes of the skills of the heroes, makes him a force to be reckoned with during battles. On the other hand, he does have a disturbing behavior of mumbling words when deep in thought.

Going back to Izuku's personality, while he has been a victim of bullying, he scores hero qualities because of his compassion for others, including Katsuki, his childhood friend and bully who calls him Deku (translates as "good for nothing").

Put training and superhuman abilities together and you've got immense power, but mix all that with a good heart, then we've got Izuku Midoriya, next top hero of Boku no Hero Academia!





# Fight and Live for What is Right.

article by Yani

Don't let fear control you. It's hard to fight back but that measures how strong you are as a person. Don't let fear make you do things that will lose your humanity.

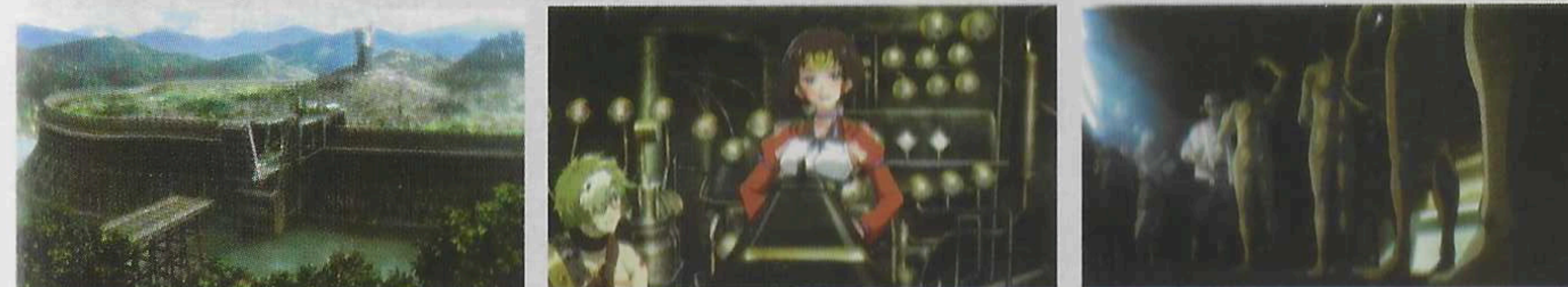


Japanese Title: Kotesujo no Kabaneri  
 Studio: Wit Studio  
 Written by: Ichiro Okouchi  
 Directed by: Tetsuro Araki  
 Music by: Hiroyuki Sawano  
 Original Character Design: Haruhiko Mikimoto  
 Opening Theme: KABANERI OF THE IRON FORTRESS by EGOIST  
 Ending Theme: Ninelie by Aimer x chelly

## 鉄城のカバネリ

KABANERI OF THE IRON FORTRESS

During the industrial revolution, a mysterious virus called the 'kabane virus' circulated widely only among humans that transforms them into kabaners. Kabaners are similar to zombies that feed on human blood. Once you've been bitten or infected, you'll become one of them. Because of this, humans were forced to create a fortress type stations which was designed to protect them from kabaners. Hayajiros: steam locomotives were used to access these different stations. A rule was implemented that once a locomotive arrives a station: all passengers must go an examination to determine if you were bitten by a kabane.



A locomotive crashed at Aragane station which was hijacked by the kabaners. The kabaners caused havoc around the city: killing and infecting several citizens, turning them into a kabane. The survivors had no choice but abandon the station. Ikoma, the steam smith, used this opportunity to test his new weapon used to kill kabaners, a weapon that could kill and pierce a kabane's heart in a single shot. His invention was a success but he was bitten in the process. He was able to resist the virus and became a Kabaneri, a hybrid race that possess the mind of a human and the strength of a kabane. Mumei is another kabaneri that assisted the Aragane station survivors to safety. With the 2 kabaneris at their side, will their survival rate increase as they move forward, finding a new place to live?







## Mumei

CV: Sayaka Senbongi

Race: Kabaneri

Mumei appeared at the Aragane Station as one of the visitors of Kenshou Yomogawa, the head of the Yomogawa family that governs the Aragane station. During the overrun of the kabaners at the Aragane Station, she was able to eliminate them. She is later revealed to be a Kabaneri. Mumei is a seasoned fighter that can kill dozens of Kabaners easily. The ribbon on her neck halts her Kabaneri powers but using it for long periods of time can make her sleepy and tired.

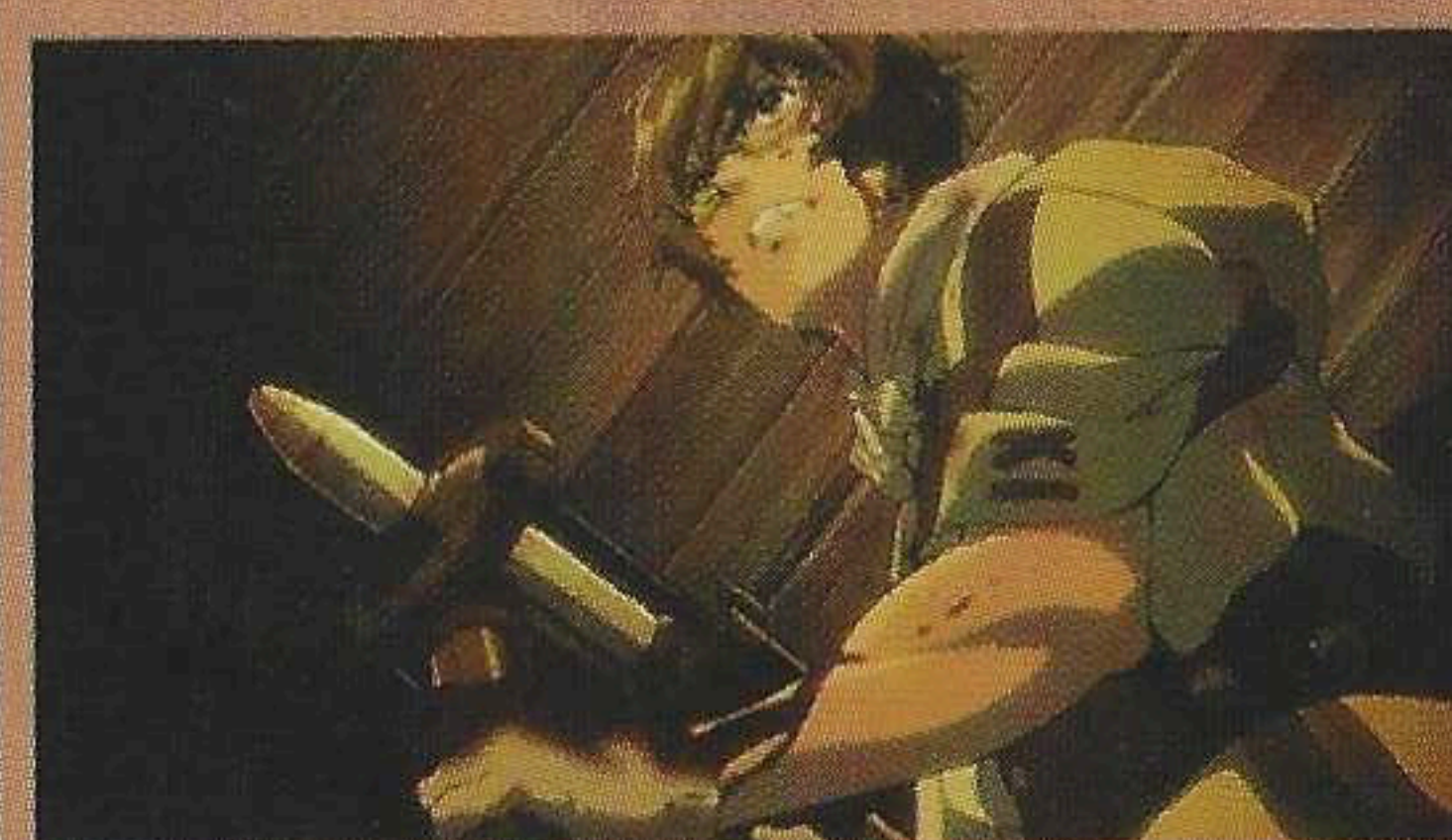


## Ikoma

CV: Tasuku Hatnaka

Race: Kabaneri

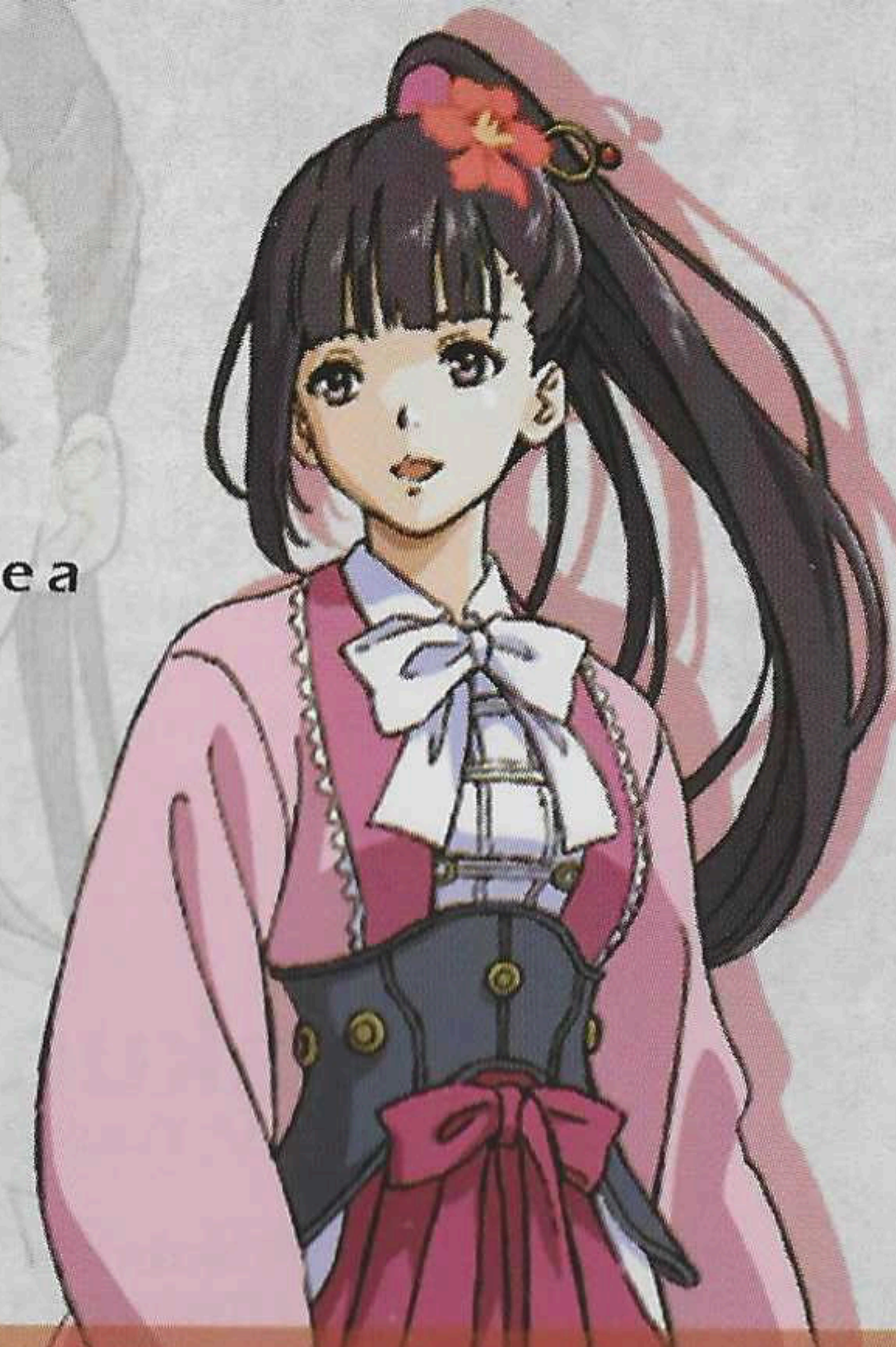
Ikoma works as a steam smith at Aragane Station. Together with his friend; Takumi they've developed an anti-kabane weapon called the "piercing gun" that can pierce a kabane's heart in one shot. He was bitten by a Kabane but survived by strangling the infected part with metal in order to stop the virus from reaching his brain. He feels that his survival from total transformation opened opportunities for other infected humans.



## Ayame Yomogawa

CV: Maaya Uchida

Ayame is the eldest daughter of the Yomogawa family. When her father became a Kabane, she become the leader of the Aragane survivors. As a leader, she is very understanding and reasonable. She even offered her blood to the Kabaneri's in exchange of the Aragane survivors protection as they travel.



## Kurusu

CV: Toshiaki Masuda

Kurusu is a bushi (samurai) with great sword skills. He is Ayame's personal bodyguard. He honors highly of his reputation as a bushi and social class standing. He only shows his caring side to Ayame.





## Kajika

CV: Kanae Oki

Kajika is a fellow steam smith of Ikoma and Takumi. She's friendly with almost everyone and she is the one who takes care of the children who lost their families to kabaners. She wishes to be a brave person like Ikoma.



## Takumi

CV: Yuuki Kaji

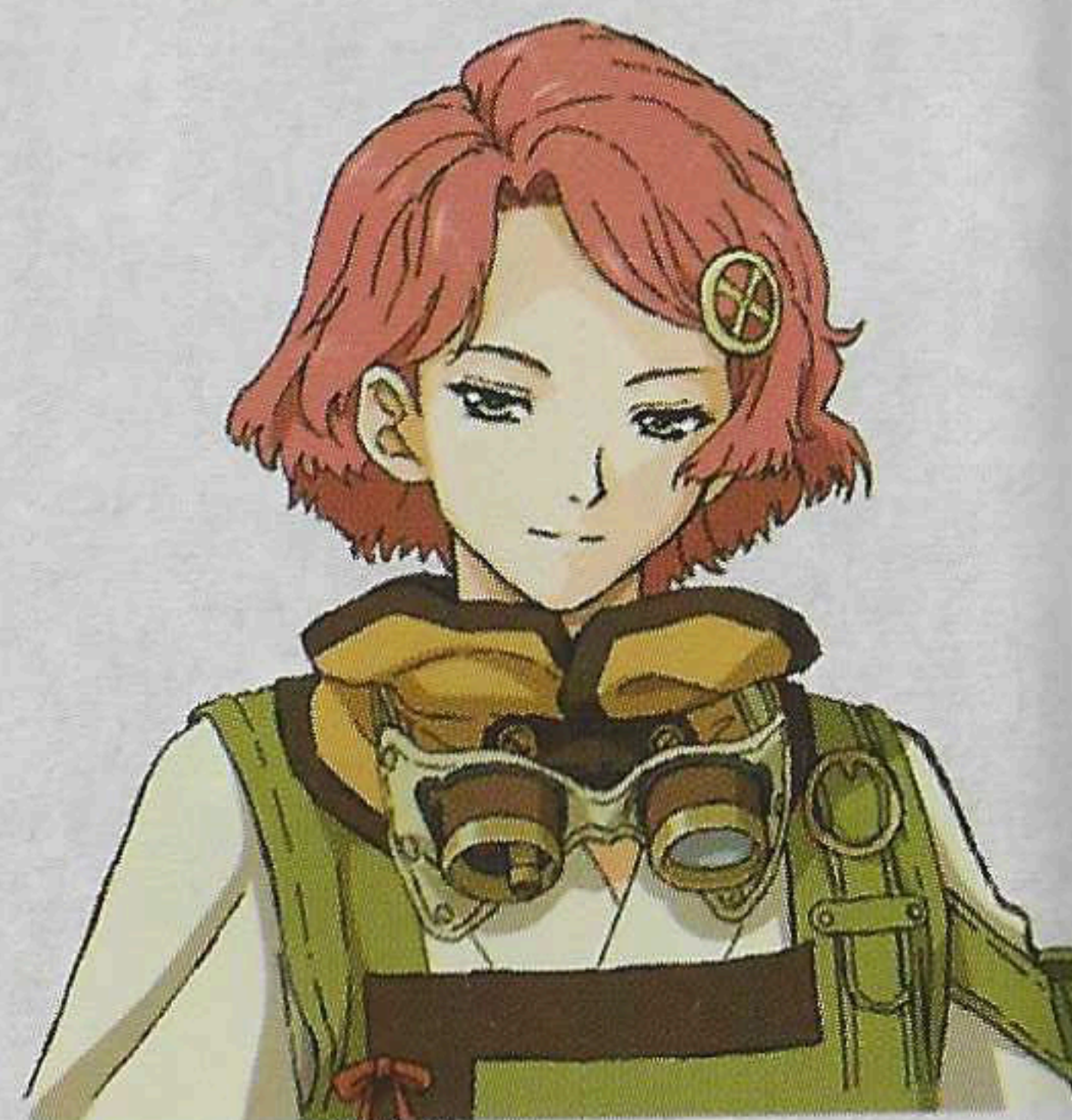
Takumi is Ikoma's best friend and fellow steam smith. They've invented the piercing gun together. He's an ordinary citizen that only follow orders from the higher ups however, he can back his friend's standing even if it is contradicted by many people.



## Yukina

CV: Mariya Ise

Yukina works as an apprentice in Kotetsujo. She became the engineer of it out of necessity when the kabane outbreak happened at the Aragane Station. She is stern and serious in tough situations and uses her knowledge to protect all the people riding the Kotetsujo.



## TERMINOLOGIES:

### Kabane

Kabaners are humanoids infected by the kabane virus. Their skin color is cold gray, their veins glow yellow, golden cracks form around their body and most promising feature is their hearts which glow molten yellow is surrounded by a molten iron cage which make them difficult to kill.

They also possess strength that could tear and damage steel, they can hold on to a Hayajiro despite its speed, tear human body to chunks in a single blow and they are quick on their feet; being able to jump high distances. Some of them retained their human wits as they can determine threats, targets and even feel anger when their fellow kabane has fallen. They feed with human blood.



From the very first episode, you could feel its post-apocalyptic theme with zombie-like creatures looking around and feeding on human's blood. Violent and visual scenes of tearing of flesh, spurting of blood is common so if you're sensitive to these kind of things, I recommend you not to eat while watching. The animation and graphics is the first thing that caught my eye. Watching the anime feels like that you're seeing a movie rather than an anime series. Let's not forget the opening animation and the song: Kabaneri of the Iron fortress performed by EGOIST which had good lyrics and beat that did not make us skip the opening.

It was really well made and visually appealing. The anime had a combination of the old and new anime style plus the unique art style that gives off a serious mood which tells you that this anime shouldn't be taken lightly. Once again, a great combination of the past and future elements; advanced trains and technology and yet it happened during an old setting where people still wear yukatas and bushis exist.

Once you've seen their character designs, you'll be able to know that it came from one series; on how their outfits were constructed elements that were present to them all. The main character's goal is set from the start: that we must not let fear control us. From the creators of well known anime series like Attack on Titan and Code Geass, I'm sure you'll also like and get hooked in watching this anime. In short, Kotesujo no Kabaneri too awesome not to be noticed and admired.

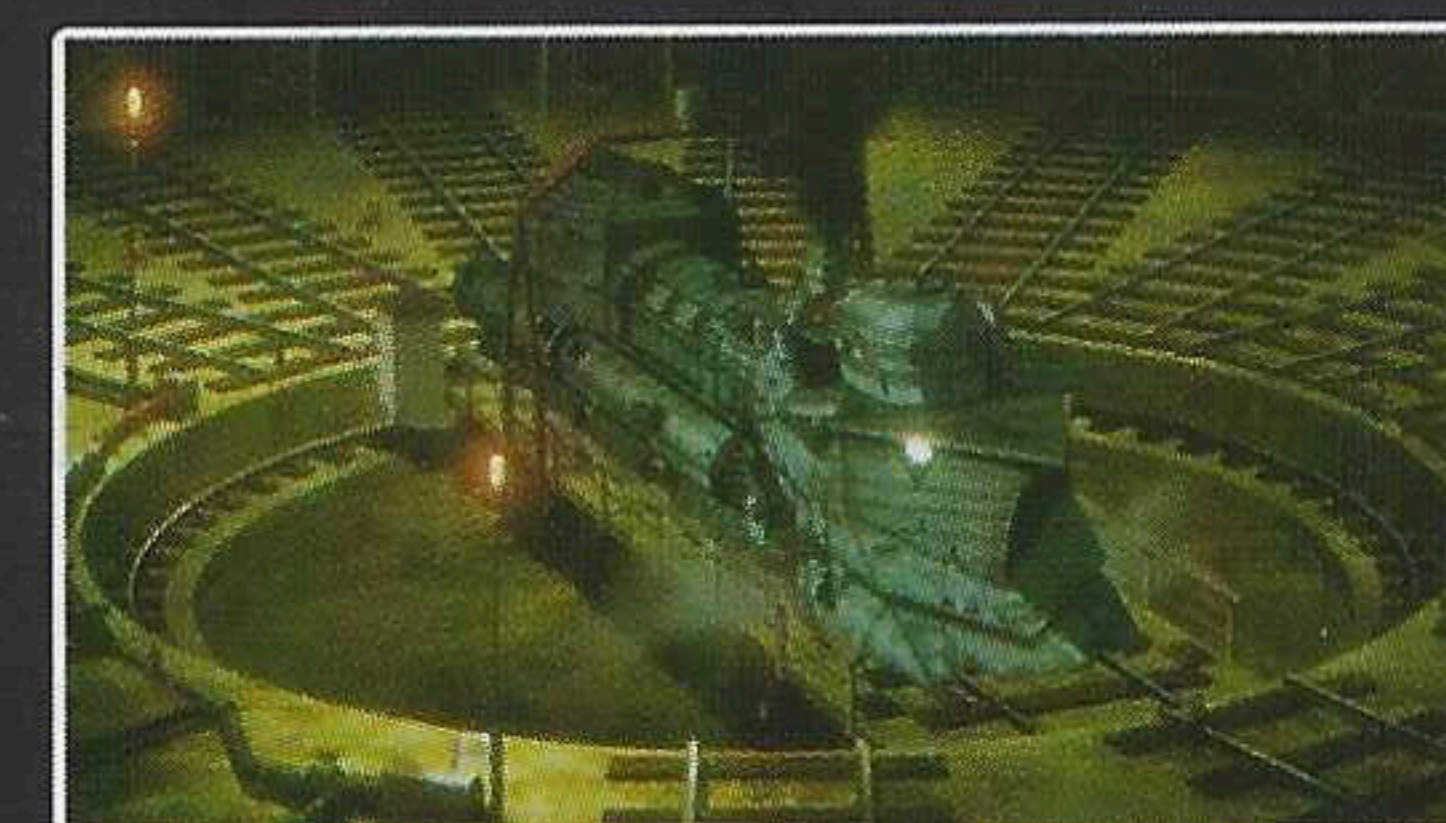


### Kabaneri

Kabaneri's are neither human or kabane but half human and half Kabane. They possess the mind of a human and the strength of a kabaneri; enhanced speed, super strength, pain endurance and quick healing. They also have molten colored hearts the same with kabaners and their skin possess red lines that look like the cracks on a kabane's skin. They feed human blood for food and to restrain their full transformation into a Kabane.

### Hayajiro

These are steam locomotives made to transport goods and humans from one station to another. It is made of heavy metal components to protect its cargo from kabane attacks. It can run at a speed of 90-100 miles per hour.







# Bungo Stray Dogs

by kanddy

Osamu Dazai 太宰 治  
by Mamoru Miyano

With a carefree attitude, he's constantly trying to commit suicide, only to fail. His ability, No longer Human nullifies any ability by touch. He takes Atsushi under his wing.

He used to work for the Port Mafia before deflecting to the Armed Detective Agency.

Top of the charts and your hearts, Kafka Asagiri's manga is now adapted into anime! Made by Studio Bones, Bungo Stray Dogs is about individuals who are gifted with super natural powers. The story follows the members of the "Armed Detective Agency" from their daily lives to their crazy antics to their war against fellow gifted men.

Characters are named after famous literary authors and their abilities are their known works.

The anime started in April 7, streamed in Crunchyroll has been well received here in the Philippines. Granrodeo performed the opening theme, 'Trash Candy' while Luck Life performed the ending theme entitled 'Namae o Yobu yo'.

It has been announced that the series will have a split season. The second half, containing twelve episodes will premiere in October 2016.

Atsushi Nakajima 中島 敦  
by Yuto Uemura

As the main protagonist, he is suddenly forced into a world of the Armed Detective Agency. His ability, Beast Beneath the Moon allows him to transform into a white tiger and is targeted by major groups like the Port Mafia and The Guild.

After being thrown out of the orphanage, he considers himself a danger to others and suffers from a lack of confidence.

Characters you will love:

Ranpo Edogawa 江戸川 乱歩  
The only actual detective of the agency. His ability, Super Deduction is actually just a skill. He himself is not aware that he does not have an ability but uses deduction and observation.

Ryunosuke Akutagawa 芥川 龍之介  
Member of the Port Mafia and former subordinate of Dazai. His ability is Rashomon, a coat that turns into a black beast. He is portrayed to be angry at Atsushi.

Chuya Nakahara 中原 中也  
Executive Member of the Port Mafia and Dazai's former partner. His ability is called For the Tainted Sorrow that allows him to manipulate gravity. Even without it, he is a good martial artist.

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## MANGA



# STREAKS OF STARDUST

by Ann

## Hoshikuzu Drop



Stars are totally unromantic. They are bursting and burning in the night sky but all we see on earth are their shimmer and glitter. If you go a little closer, you might burn yourself!

Still not all of the unromantic qualities of stars can be said of **Shino Hatokaya**, a transfer student in Sakura Minami High School. He is immediately mesmerized by the presence of **Ichigo Sera**, who helps him during his struggle in his first day to school. He stumbles upon the Astronomy Club in his search for her, but would his innocent look of an angel be ruined by skeletons in her closet? Or would he find a wish granted by helping her open herself a bit more to others?

**Lalako Kojima** has formulated this cute love story that mixes shoujo with a bit of comedy. Released in April 2014 in Kodansha's **ARIA** magazine, **Hoshikuzu Drop** is a light-hearted manga filled with easy-going romance not only from the love at first sight theme but also from the cheerful people surrounding Shino in the **Astronomy Club**. While the story itself is relaxed and calm, it doesn't rush its pacing, which knits a harmonious flow in the school life setting. While it also uses comedy, it blends right in with the newbie feels of Shino, so it makes the manga more relevant to the readers with its realistic flavor. The supporting characters are also given more details to match the few details given about Sera in the first few chapters, building more interest from the readers.

Join Shino as he finds out more about the mysterious Sera through the fun mix of people in the Astronomy Club. What stars will he find surrounding her in the dark sky? What events would make his venture meet the romantic quality of stardust?

Without a name, one is without purpose. In any story, the name is the essence of a character's being. It dictates their role and their personality, but in the world of **Wonderland**, a man finds himself in a lonely, crowded street, desperately holding on to a name a cat suggests. **Alice**, as he is called, is tasked to kill the **White Rabbit**, the one with power to manipulate the story in **Wonderland**. Everyone is depending on Alice to fulfil this task, even the White Rabbit, but what if he's not the Alice everyone expects him to be? The game is on!

Lewis Carroll's **Wonderland** is turned even more topsy turvy in "Are You Alice?" as readers are overwhelmed by classy men assuming most of the queer roles of the classic tale. Written by **Ai Ninomiya** and drawn by **Ikumi Katagiri**, it is licensed by Yen Press, published by **Waneko**, and serialized in Ichijinsha's **Monthly Comic Zero Sum** from 2009 up to its 12th volume released in July 2015. This manga boasts of a unique take to a common story, so unique that its plot can really be quite complex.

Chapter by chapter, the readers are introduced not only to the identity of each character but also to the roles they play in the game of killing the White Rabbit. There is a blurring of the line between allies and foes as it gets harder to discern the goal of the Cheshire Cat and the extent of his control over others, but it remains true that the characters in **Wonderland** can only do the purpose they were given when the White Rabbit gave them their names. For Alice, the game is his reality as he is forced to move forward without knowing anything about his past. The continuous mysteries just make the reader keep flipping the pages to search for answers!

While the plot is quite dark and heavy, the manga sometimes plays on humor on the side to lighten up the situation and give different perspectives of characters. This also shows the development of the characters and their relation to others just like how Alice is first afraid and wary around others but becomes more assertive and a bit laidback when with the Mad Hatter.

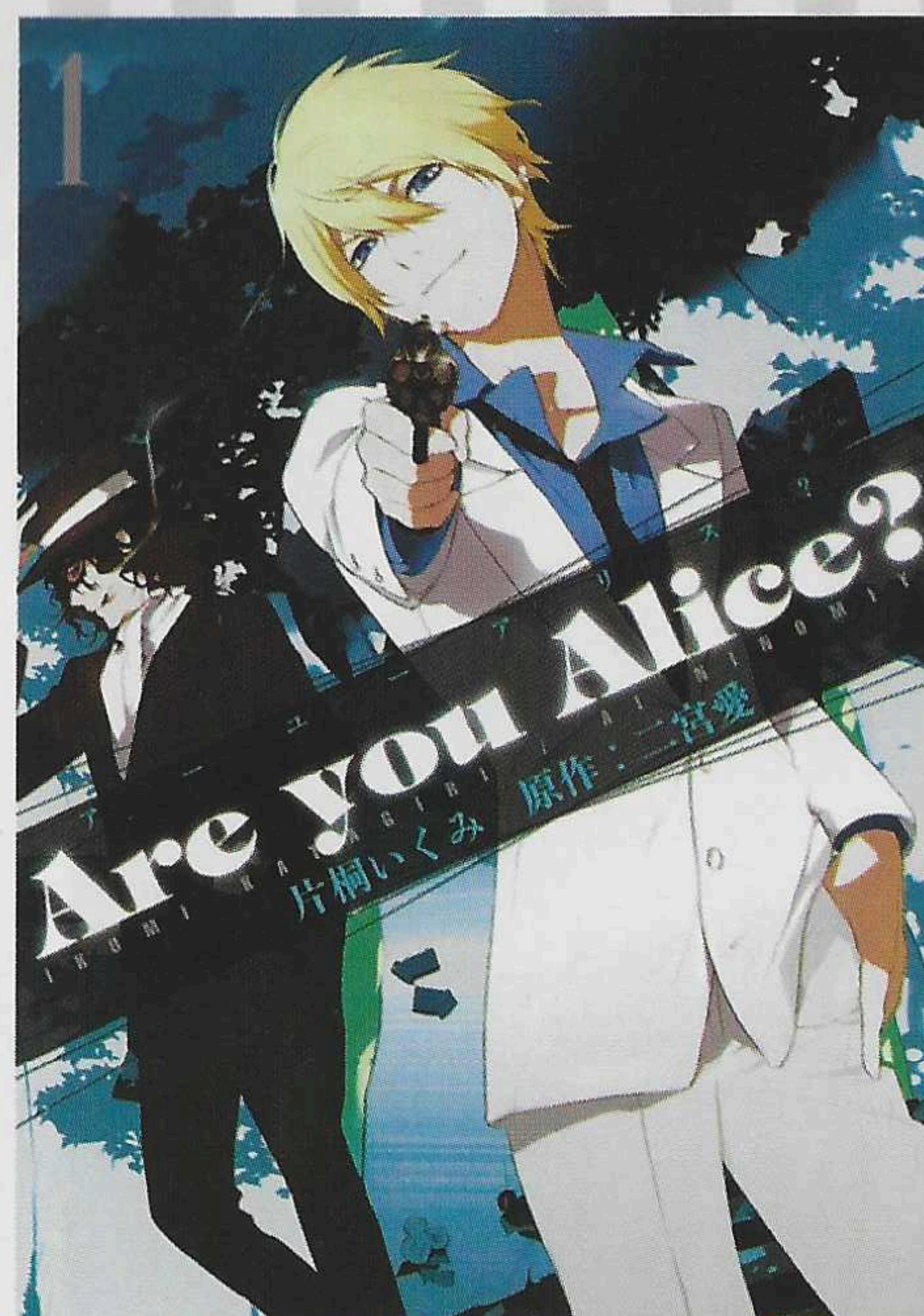
Down the rabbit hole Alice goes, but what awaits him in this cruel game of murder and deceit? Will he saunter to his death and be haunted by Regrets? Or will he find answers to the mystery of the life he had before **Wonderland**? The fall continues in "Are You Alice?"



# THE GAME OF NAMES

by Ann

## Are you Alice?







## Until Death Do Us Part

by Kahlua



Evildoers will give anything just to get their hands on a great power that will boost their ominous activities. Those who possess unique abilities, therefore, must know how to protect themselves in order to deny the bad guys the opportunity. What if, on a unpleasant luck though, it is gained by a little girl instead? She needs someone to protect her; that's how she found him.

Due to her strong precognitive abilities, Haruka Touyama was kidnapped by agents of a company called EX-SOLID in order to make profit off of her. But the very ability that brought her harm has also saved her from getting into an even worse scenario. While being brought somewhere by the yakuza group, she spotted a blind swordsman, Mamoru Hijikata, who she think will be her way out of the situation. She therefore hired Mamoru to save and protect her 'until death do us part'.

## Protect Me Forever

Consisted of 24 volumes, Until Death Do Us Part by Hiroshi Takashige has been published in Japan from December 2005 to November 2015 by Square Enix. At present, it is being published in different countries such as France, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia and Italy, and has been licensed for English language release by Yen Press.

While the title suggests a romance story, it is in fact a seinen series with a lot of action and science fiction. When at first it was only Mamoru who is involved in protecting Haruka, it is great how eventually a larger organization called Elemental Network gets involved. It started with only Ryoutarou Igawa supporting Mamoru's operations through technical matters, but as the whole underground goes after her, Mamoru's entire group becomes involved protecting her, creating more intense fight scenes (both for physical and mental war). In addition, the story will interest the mind of fans for its added scientific references. If ever it gains an anime adaptation, it will be something that anime enthusiasts must look forward to.

Witness the war that breaks out for this little girl! Will Mamoru be able to protect her, "Until Death Do Us Part"?

The world we are in is an ever changing abode. It is unstable, capricious, erratic; just like the people who are living in it. And it should not be surprising when in the near future the society is more corrupt than it already is.

Dogs: Bullets and Carnage takes a step farther into the future where the man's "golden age of technology" ruined the earth and caused science to run amok. It is set someplace in Europe where many levels of underground lies, including even the dangerous levels that have answers of the past. Inevitably, four unique men whose pasts are connected to a secret underground organization had a fateful encounter: something that will unveil the mysterious and yet unknown world "below".

Published by Shueisha, Dogs: Bullets and Carnage is an ongoing manga series by Shirow Miwa serialized in Ultra Jump since 2005. It is a prequel of the one-shot manga Dogs: Stray Dogs Howling in the Dark written also by Miwa in 2001. On May 2009 thereafter, an original video animation adaptation directed by Tatsuya Abe and consisted of four episodes was run by David Production.

There is a certain madness mixed up in the scent of this story, implying that it is not a manga that is a good read for everyone. Surely it is a seinen series, but apparently, it would be much appreciated by more mature readers for the setting is too dark with all the underground work and stuff. Patience is also required in comprehending its story, since scenarios do jump from one place to another that might cause confusion to short-tempered spectators. Understanding the plot will be easier only if you put effort into it, but that did the beauty of the series. After all, excessive straightforwardness most of the time kill the curiosity of readers, lessening their count. Reading the prelude (Dogs: Stray Dogs Howling in the Dark) is highly recommended, and you who loves action is guaranteed to want to dive into the story afterwards.

Mihai, an ex-assassin now a bartender..

Badou, a cigarette junkie who gets worked up when denied of cigarettes..

Haine, genetically experimented from birth..

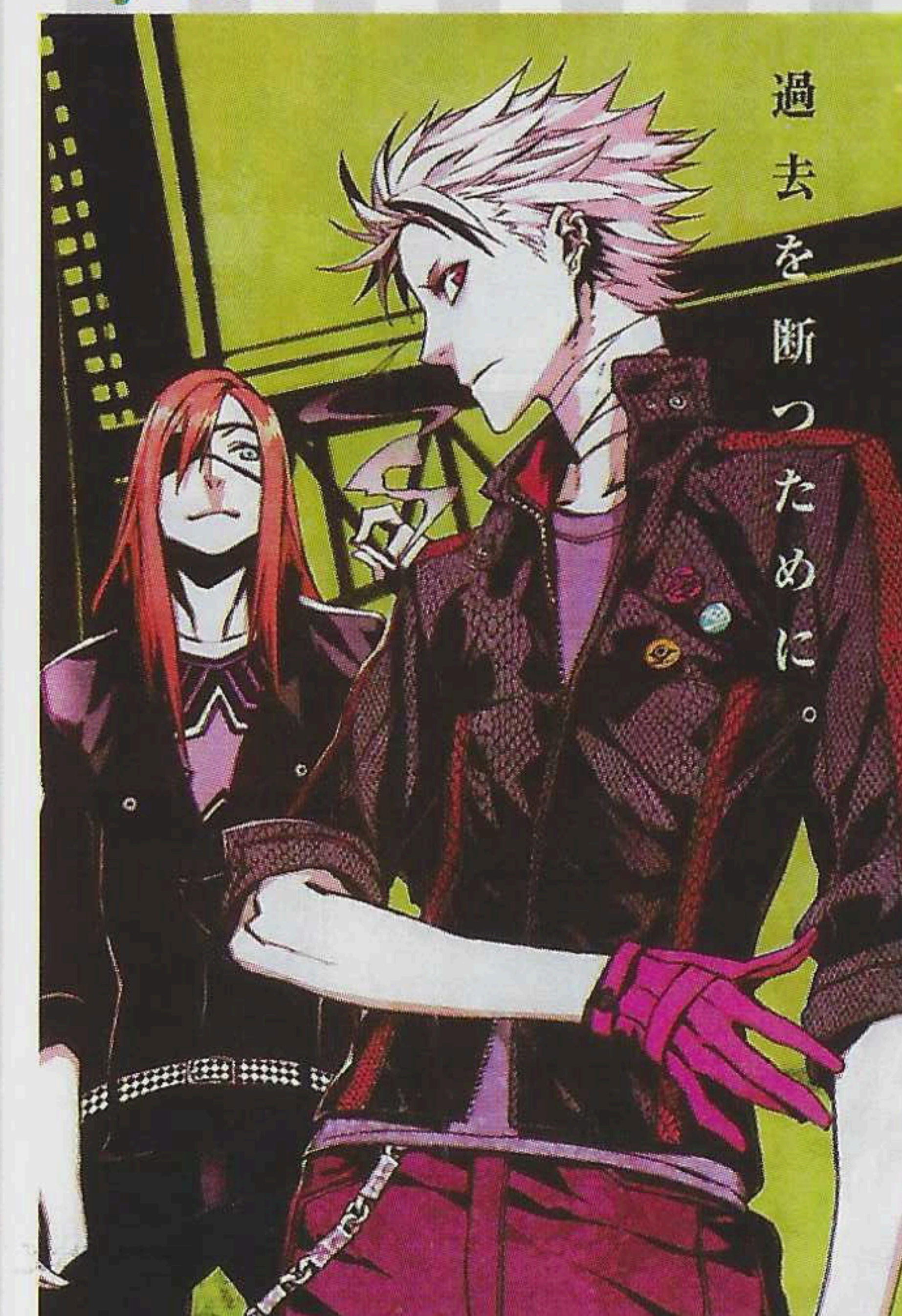
Naoto, sword-wielding orphan suffering from amnesia..

Four singular parallel stories which will eventually coincide, what kind of dark secrets will this unravel?

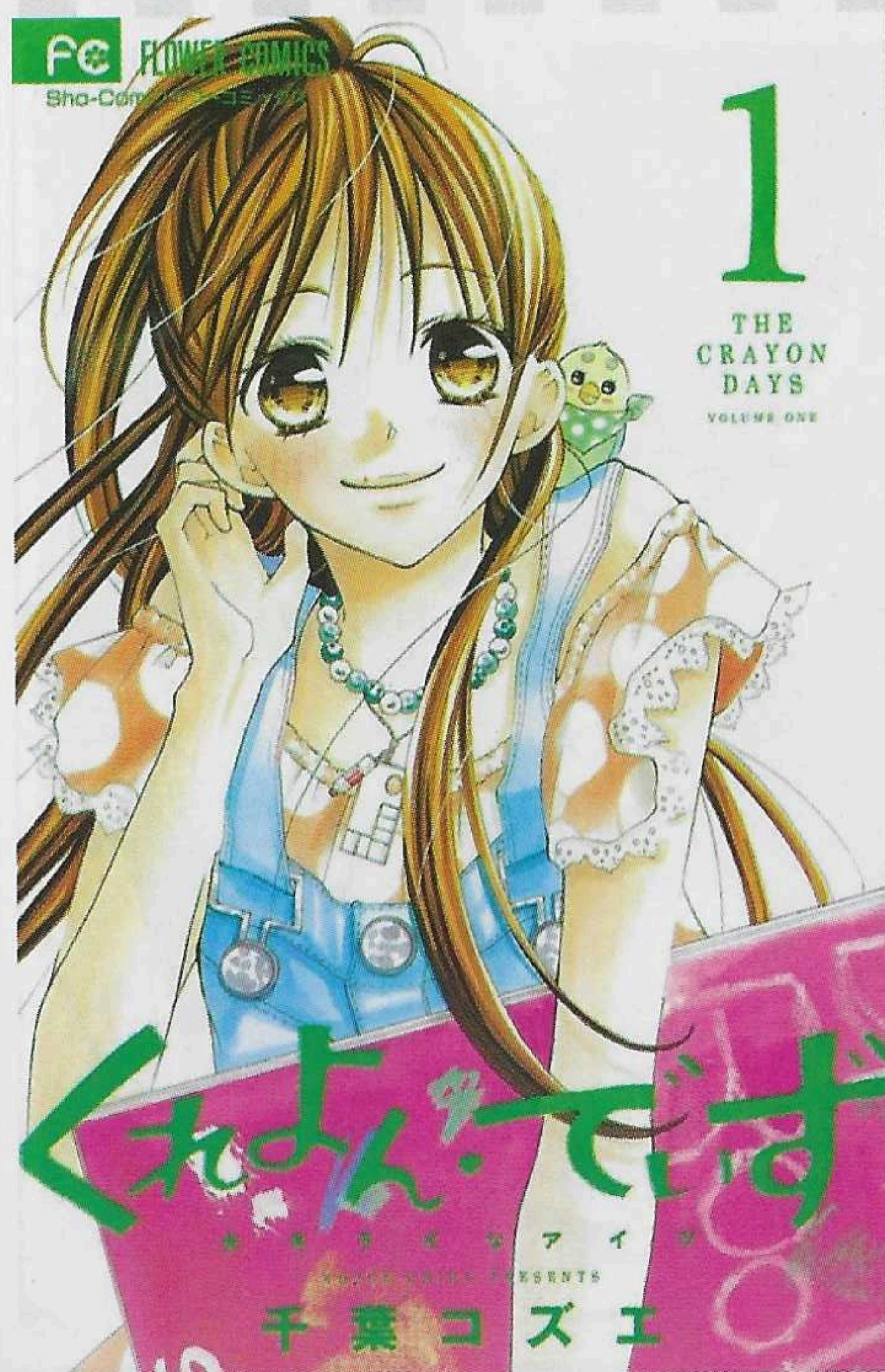


## Dogs: Bullets & Carnage

by Kahlua







## Crayon Days

by Mikelle



We've all had that certain individual in class that lacks presence or aura. Those archetypes that doesn't stand out, be it intentional or unintentional, and is quite hard to remember so it sometimes slips our mind that they're even there. Who knows it could even be yourself who falls within this category. Fret not for there are some solutions in order for you to be noticed and stand out as there are countless ways in order to express yourself towards other poeple; and one of those is very simple yet endearing and it is called Art.

Ichinose Shima is just your average girl who loves to draw and paint. She led the fairly normal life of a student albeit she doesn't stand out too much. She didn't mind it one bit until one day a certain event broke her heart. Ichinose decided to attend a famous art school to pursue her love for painting and there she met someone who could change her life.

Crayon Days is a school romance shoujo manga by Kozue Chiba which was serialized in Sho-Comi. The series is already finished with a total of 4 published volumes.

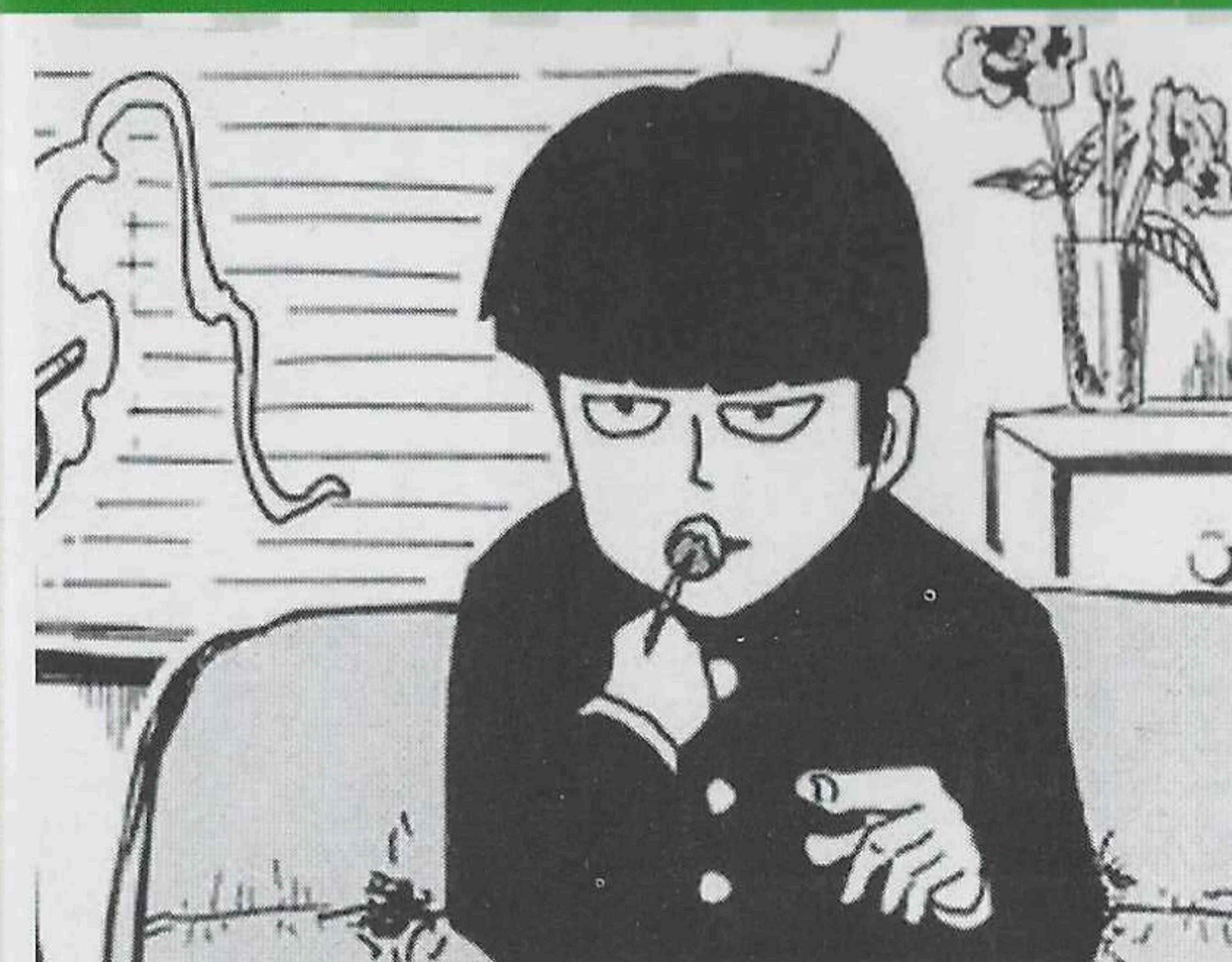
The story focuses on an average girl who is in love with art. The manga shows how two different individuals can cross fate simply by following their heart and dedication. The story could also teach the readers about not giving up and that when striving towards your dream, you will always be rewarded once you've reached your goal since there is no such thing as wasted effort.

Countless strange phenomena which have no scientific explanation occur in this world. When faced with the unknown, common people get swallowed by animosity and despair. In order to illuminate hope upon them, few chosen individuals continue to fight and resolve these problems and some people calls them psychics.

An average middle school student named **Shigeo Kageyama** is nicknamed as **Mob** by his peers due to his lack of presence and individuality. Despite Mob's outer appearance, he is actually a very powerful **Esper** who grew up realizing his enormous potential. He is desperately struggling to live as a normal student while constantly trying to suppress his power from getting out of control. Along with **Arataka Reigen**, a self-proclaimed (fake) psychic, who Mob calls master; they both work in a cheap spirit agency that helps in resolving other peoples strange problems.

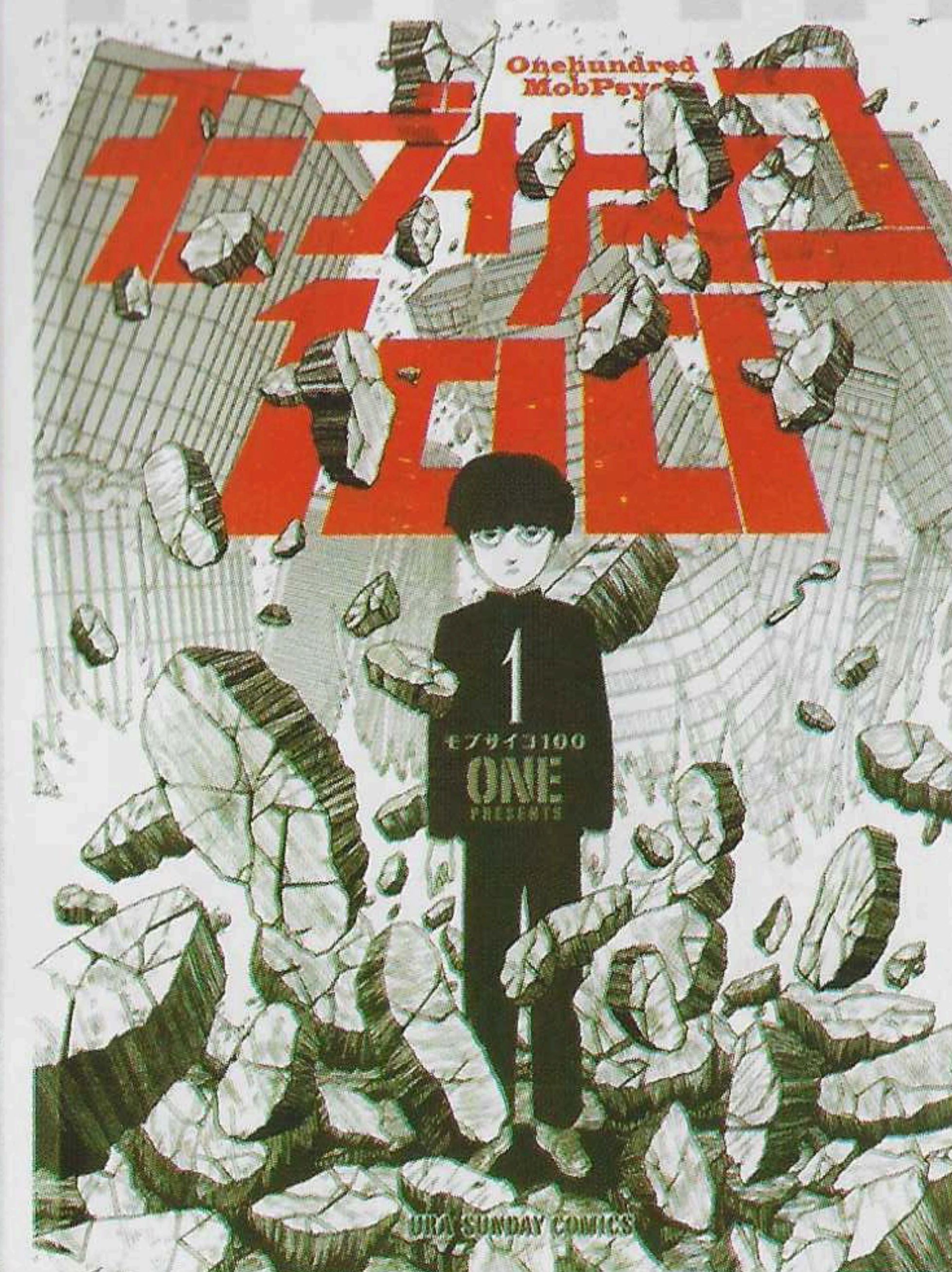
**Mob Psycho 100** is originally a web comic before being serialized in Weekly Shounen Sunday which is written by the same guy that brought us One Punch Man, ONE. An anime adaptation handled by **Bones** studio has already been announced and is scheduled to premiere July 2016. Yuzuru Tachikawa will be directing the series while Hiroshi Seko is handling the script and Yoshimichi Kameda with the character designs.

Mob Psycho 100 works with a similar premise as One Punch Man where a duo of special individuals, one of which is overpowered, randomly encounters threatening issues which gets solved unbeknownst to the general public. Coupled with great gags and surprising plot twist, Mob Psycho 100 proves to be an epic read especially for those who are fans of ONEs web comics.



## Mob Psycho 100

by Mikelle





# Twin Star Exorcists

The world we know has an alternate side called the Magano where the negative emotions of humans gather. Here, impurities thrive and the only ones able to help up are those called Exorcists.

Rokuro Enmadou is an exorcist... well, used to be. After a tragedy as a child, he has stopped working as an exorcist. On his way home, he meets Benio Adashino who is a talented exorcist and head of the Hondo-Adashino family from Kyoto. Together, they are the fated "Twin Star Exorcist" destined to bear the child who will end the fight against impurities... if they ever get along.

Sousei no Onmyouji or Twin Star Exorcists is a shonen manga by Yoshiaki Sukeno. The series is published in Japan under Jump Square magazine the anime adaptation started in April under Studio Pierrot.

With 50 scheduled episodes, we sort of expected it to be filled with fillers. Because we follow the manga, this seemed like a good idea to drag the story to explain and introduce characters.

The series is directed by Tomohisa Taguchi and written by Naruhisa Arakawa. Additionally, Shishō Igarashi is serving as assistant director, Kikuko Sadakata is designing the characters, and Itsuko Takeda is serving as chief animation director.

The series' first opening theme song is "Valkyrie -Ikusa Otome-" (Valkyrie by Wagakki Band while the first ending theme is "Eyes" by Hitomi Kaji. The second opening theme will be performed by the idol group i☆Ris, while two-man group Itowokashi (Kashitarō Itō and Ryō Miyada) will perform the second ending theme.



**Rokuro Enmadou**  
voiced by: Natsuki Hanae

A loud and straightforward main character. He survived the big Hiinastuki Tragedy two years ago and has turned his back on exorcism but not on saving people.

After meeting Benio, he explains his fighting as "saving those in front of him" but through time, his true reason become more and more clear.

In the manga, there was a huge 2 year time skip and a lot of questions were raised. While the anime has changed the timeline of events, we still believe that they are doing this to explain a lot of the gaps that the manga has left.



**Benio Adashino**  
voiced by: Megumi Han

A girl of a few words. She is the other half of the Twin Stars. Unlike Rokuro, she has been trained to be an exorcist since birth. As proof, she can equip five enchanted gear at the age of twelve. Despite this, she acknowledges Rokuro's power very early on. She respects his tenacity.

Benio is one of the few who has been granted the seal to enter Magano. She enters and leaves as she wishes which leads to Rokuro worrying about her constantly. While they are both against the idea of marriage, they are very capable of working together in front of impurities.





# REQUESTS

by Ann



Join the  
Neighbor's Club  
**HAGANAI**  
Requested by  
Gian Nepomuceno

Separation is always a hard thing to do for any relationship, but even the first step of getting into one might be just as hard. I don't remember how I came to be friends with the people I have now, but surely, it was a challenge for me to connect because of my shyness, but what if a greater challenge was a big misunderstanding?

For **Kodaka Hasegawa** (voiced by Ryohei Kimura), that's definitely the hardship he is going through. While it has been a month since he transferred to **St. Chronica's Academy**, he has yet to make friends because he usually gives off a scary vibe as people think of him as a blond delinquent when he couldn't help his half-British and half-Japanese blood. Things start changing when he finds another friendless classmate, **Yozora Mikazuki** (voiced by Marina Inoue), talking to Tomo-chan, her imaginary friend. She decides to create **Neighbor's Club** that would resolve their woes, but would it turn out the way she had planned if she's not in good terms with their first recruit?

**Funimation** released **Boku wa Tomodachi ga Sukunai** or **Haganai**, a 12-episode comedy and ecchi school life anime series based on the light novel by **Yomi Hirasaka** with art by **Buriki**. The light novel was first published in 2009 while the adaptation began in October 2011 and ended December. Its studio is AIC Build with Hisashi Saito as director.

Consistent to the pretty amusing plot, each episode is packed with fits of laughs with a dash of ecchi and romance. More characters will be introduced to help the lead characters take making friends to a whole new level of awesome and a whole new level of hilarity. While a harem appears to exist in this anime, it's admirable the way that Kodaka assumes a manlier role than usual innocent guys. Aside from that, he's also very caring about others and seems to be the one (if not the only one) who makes a lot of sense around the girls. Making friends is one of the best things about one's high school life, but if the natural flow of events in school are not enough to find one, Yozora and Kodaka's move just might do. Catch up on their rib-tickling path to friendships!

by James



**KURAGEHIME**  
Requested

"Every girl grows up to be a beautiful princess" – that is what Tsukimi's mother told her. Tsukimi, however, believes that her mother's words didn't come true in her case. But what she doesn't know is that the beauty her mother is talking about isn't the same as the one that's in her head – a mere superficial attribute. Then again, she doesn't seem to care about that, as there are many other things in life that are going for her, like friendship, hobbies, and happiness. And what she doesn't know is that there is a kind of beauty that isn't a physical description, but instead a virtue that can be found inside and out. That is what Tsukimi is going to achieve down the path in life she's taking; she is already on her way to becoming a beautiful princess. Follow her story in *Kuragehime*.

**Kuragehime**, also known as **Jellyfish Princess** in English, is, obviously, about **Tsukimi**. She's a college student and a typical geek – socially awkward and refuses to follow fashion trends. And since she's a geek, she's very passionate and knowledgeable about something,

and in her case that would be with jellyfish. Keeping her company are her fellow tenants in the dormitory, who are very much like her when it comes to being unskilled in interacting with other people, and being a geek over something. This was the regular and happy life she was content with, until one night she finds **Clara**, a pet shop jellyfish that she's been eyeing, sharing a tank with a particular jellyfish species that would kill Clara. And with the help of a bishoujo who bought Clara for her, she was able to take Clara home. The tall, beautiful stranger who purchased the jellyfish in Tsukimi's stead came along with her and crashed for the night. And come morning, Tsukimi makes a bizarre and surprising discovery – the gorgeous model-like woman is a boy. With this peculiar and unexpected encounter, Tsukimi's life takes on a whole new course.

With a warm and quaint art style, funny and colorful characters, and an overt message about being happy with oneself, *Kuragehime* isn't your typical princess tale, but nevertheless one you'll find enjoyable.





**BITZ**

# OC 101 - CHARACTER CREATION STARTER KIT

article by Reikisha

I'm sure some of you out there have fantasized about something like becoming the next Hokage or Pirate King at least once in your life. But unfortunately, reality is so harsh that you have no choice but to let those dreams be dreams. So instead of your real self, you'll create an avatar that embodies that fantasy. Dear Otafan, are you aspiring to become a novelist someday? Or perhaps an active member of a role-playing community even to this day?

If you are, then you might want to sit back, relax, and read through this guide that will help you create your very own OC! But first, you need to understand what an OC is.

OC stands for "Original Character"—a term used mainly by fanfic writers and roleplayers to describe a character that isn't originally a part of the official storyline. For novelists, all characters introduced in their story are original.

Aside from coming up with a name and character design, there are four things that you need to consider when creating your very own OC.

## NO 1: PICK AN ARCHETYPE

An archetype is a long-established trope that appears in almost every story you've come across with. You can use this as a template to give your OCs a certain role to play. If you still have no idea what an archetype is, here's an example:

The main characters of IS: Infinite Stratos are all based from popular character archetypes commonly seen in anime.

[use IS character images then write the archetype they represents]

Ichika Orimura – Dense Male Lead  
Houki Shinonome – Tsundere  
Childhood Friend

Cecilia Alcott – Ojou-sama  
Charlotte Dunois – Reverse Trap  
Laura Bodewig – Defrosting Ice Queen

Huang Lingyin – Anime Chinese Girl,  
Childhood Friend

Tatenashi Sarashiki – Cool Big Sis  
Kanzashi Sarashiki – Meganekko



As of now, there are over one hundred archetypes to choose from. To know each and every character archetype to base your character from, you may consult TV Tropes for an in-depth description.

## NO 2: WHAT IS YOUR ALIGNMENT?

The Law versus Chaos alignment is often used in tabletop games and online roleplay communities to determine a participating character's ethical outlook in life. Your OC's actions in the story will be based on the alignment you've chosen for them. However, the alignment system is not absolute since there are cases that a character's ethical outlook drastically changes after a major plot point.

| ETHICS  | LAW            | NEUTRAL      | CHAOTIC         |
|---------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| GOOD    | LAWFUL GOOD    | NEUTRAL GOOD | CHAOTIC GOOD    |
| NEUTRAL | LAWFUL NEUTRAL | TRUE NEUTRAL | CHAOTIC NEUTRAL |
| EVIL    | LAWFUL EVIL    | NEUTRAL EVIL | CHAOTIC EVIL    |

When you combine two axes on a 3x3 square grid as shown above, your character can fall under one out of nine possible alignments:

### GOOD

**Lawful Good** – Characters in the Lawful Good alignment sees the law as a good thing. They have a strong sense of justice and refuse to succumb to evil for as long as they live.

**Neutral Good** – They also think that law is good, but doesn't necessarily mean that upholding it is more important than anything else. Characters in this alignment might be nice to a certain group of people, but they may not be a good person overall.

**Chaotic Good** – Chaotic Good characters see the law as oppressive. Nevertheless, they are still performing good deeds for others despite not being huge fans of the government.

### NEUTRAL

**Lawful Neutral** – Lawful Neutrals are the rule-abiding type. Characters in this alignment are impartial regardless of the circumstances.

**True Neutral** – True Neutrals come in two flavors: balance keepers or apathetic. They are the type who never let morals and ideals cloud their judgment.

**Neutral Evil** – Characters in this alignment are constantly seeking freedom while completely disregarding ethics. They also tend to commit crime without having any malicious intent.

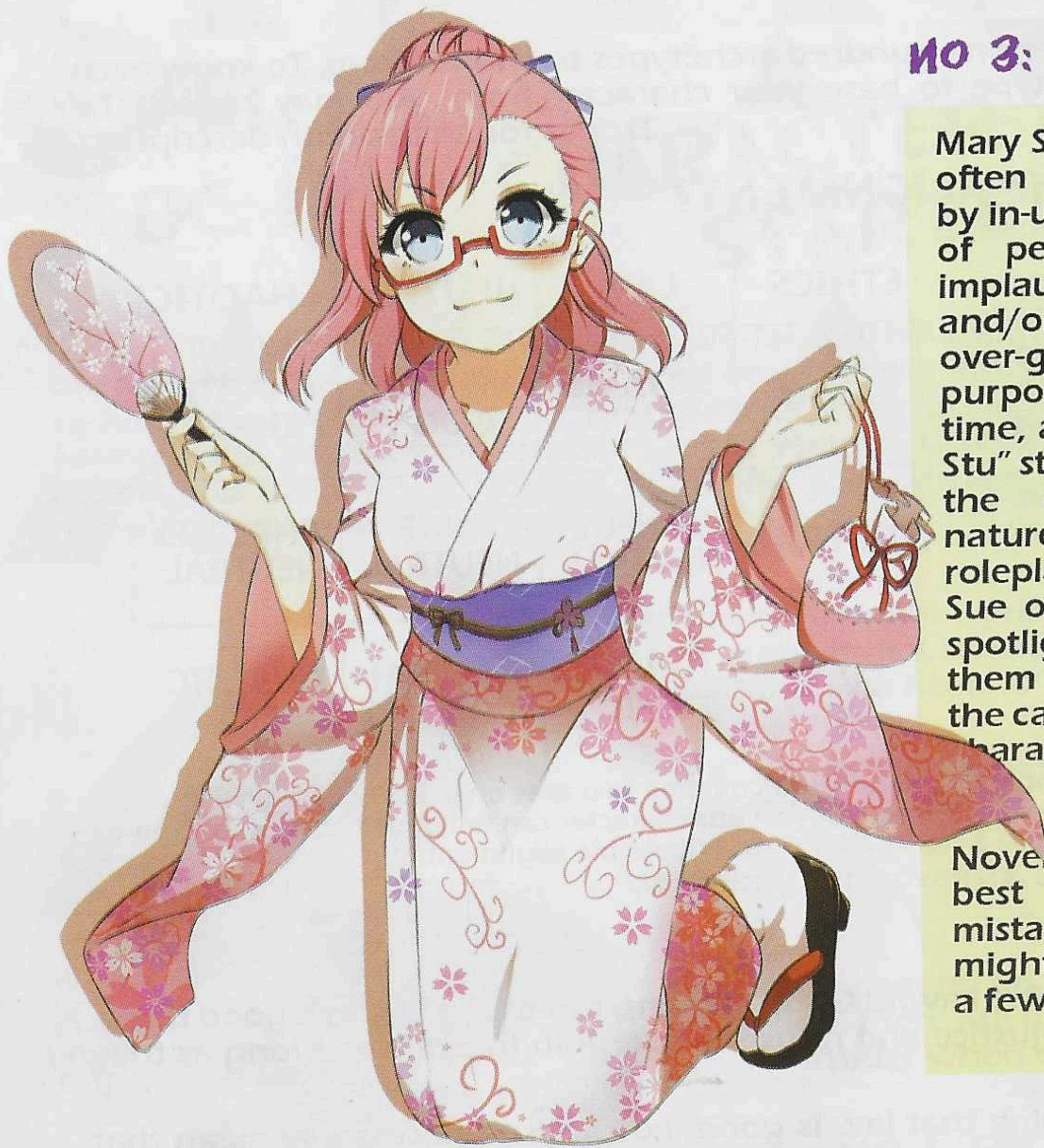
### EVIL

**Lawful Evil** – Characters in this alignment have a tendency to go to extreme lengths just to protect the law. Most villain characters are Lawful Evil by default.

**Chaotic Neutral** – When placed with the good guys, a Chaotic Neutral character won't think twice before stabbing everyone in the back. They can be the personification of malice, or just ruffians acting tough.

**Chaotic Evil** – Chaotic Evil characters will most likely stab a random passerby with a knife just because they can. They participate in all kinds of illegal activities without regard to casualties and law enforcers.





## NO 3: KNOW YOUR SUES

Mary Sues are characters that are often considered overpowered by in-universe standards, capable of performing feats that are implausible within the setting, and/or simply the creator's over-glorified avatar for the purpose of wish-fulfillment. Over time, a male version called "Gary Stu" started to see use. Because of the character's over-idealized nature, readers and fellow roleplayers hate it when a Mary Sue or a Gary Stu is taking the spotlight in the story, causing them to overshadow the rest of the cast. It's even worse if the said character happens to be the protagonist.

Novelists and roleplayers try their best to avoid making this mistake. But in doing so, they might have unintentionally used a few traits that belong to a Mary Sue/Gary Stu character.

Below are a few examples of common Mary Sue traits:

**Anti-Sue** – A genuinely useless character that's still loved by everyone.

**Copypat Sue** – A character modeled after the author's favorite character, except that they're cooler than the original.

**God Mod Sue** – This character constantly destroys the suspension of disbelief by winning every battle unrealistically.

**Villain Sue** – A character that goes to crazed extremes just to be evil.

**Relationship Sue** – A character designed to become another character's partner.

**Sympathetic Sue** – This one constantly seeks the readers' sympathy, but tries too hard at it.

**Possession Sue** – The author overhauls a canon character's role, importance and personality and replaces it with the author's ideals.

Creating a character that have traits of a common sue isn't exactly bad. But if you fear that your character might be a full-blown Mary Sue, you can take this online test here: <http://www.springhole.net/writing/marysue.htm>



## NO 4: UNTOLD ORIGIN STORY

This is the part where you, as the creator, unleash your inner demons in-order to come up with a great origin story. But make sure that you won't reveal any information about your character that might count as a major spoiler for the story. Since people tend to go overboard with this part of the creation process, the general rule for writing an origin story should be short and simple.

"How short should it be?" you asked. Probably about a paragraph or two would be enough.

And lastly, take a look at this sample info using an OC from one of my novel projects.



## MYRIL

### Skills:

- Physical Reinforcement (Active)
- Spear mastery (Passive)
- Gale Thrust (Active)
- First Aid (Elementary Restoration Magic)

### Weapon Mastery:

- |            |          |
|------------|----------|
| -Sword: A  | -Mace: F |
| -Spear: S+ | -Rod: E  |
| -Bow: D+   | -Book: F |
| -Dagger: E | -Fist D  |
| -Axe: F    | -Gun: E  |

**Race:** Human  
**Gender:** Female  
**Character Class:** Knight  
**Archetype:** Tsundere Heroine  
**Alignment:** Lawful Good

Myril is one of the strongest female players of the unnamed VR World she and other playtesters are trapped in. She is headstrong, prone to act without thinking, and possibly a "tsundere". Myril mainly uses a spear-class weapon to attack enemies from a safe distance

Now that we've covered all the important stuff, you are now ready to create your OC for your stories and/or roleplaying communities! Though you're probably wondering why this is necessary. Some creators tend to spend lots of their time coming up with character concepts instead of story progression and somehow end up being either superficial or outright broken

story-wise. But after reading through simple-yet-valuable information when creating a character, you'll be able to minimize the time you spend on the planning stage while maximizing your creativity.

Time to apply what you've learned today, dear Otafan! And don't forget to have fun~





# O-KUN TALES

Volunteer head  
↓



Okay guys!  
Please remember that  
Fangirling is  
**NOT ALLOWED**  
during the  
magazine signing  
of Bishounen  
Society

Eh? I  
bet you  
and Liz  
would be  
the first  
in line



Xander!!  
that's  
**NOT TRUE.**  
We won't  
be fangirling  
during the  
signing.

Hhmphhh.

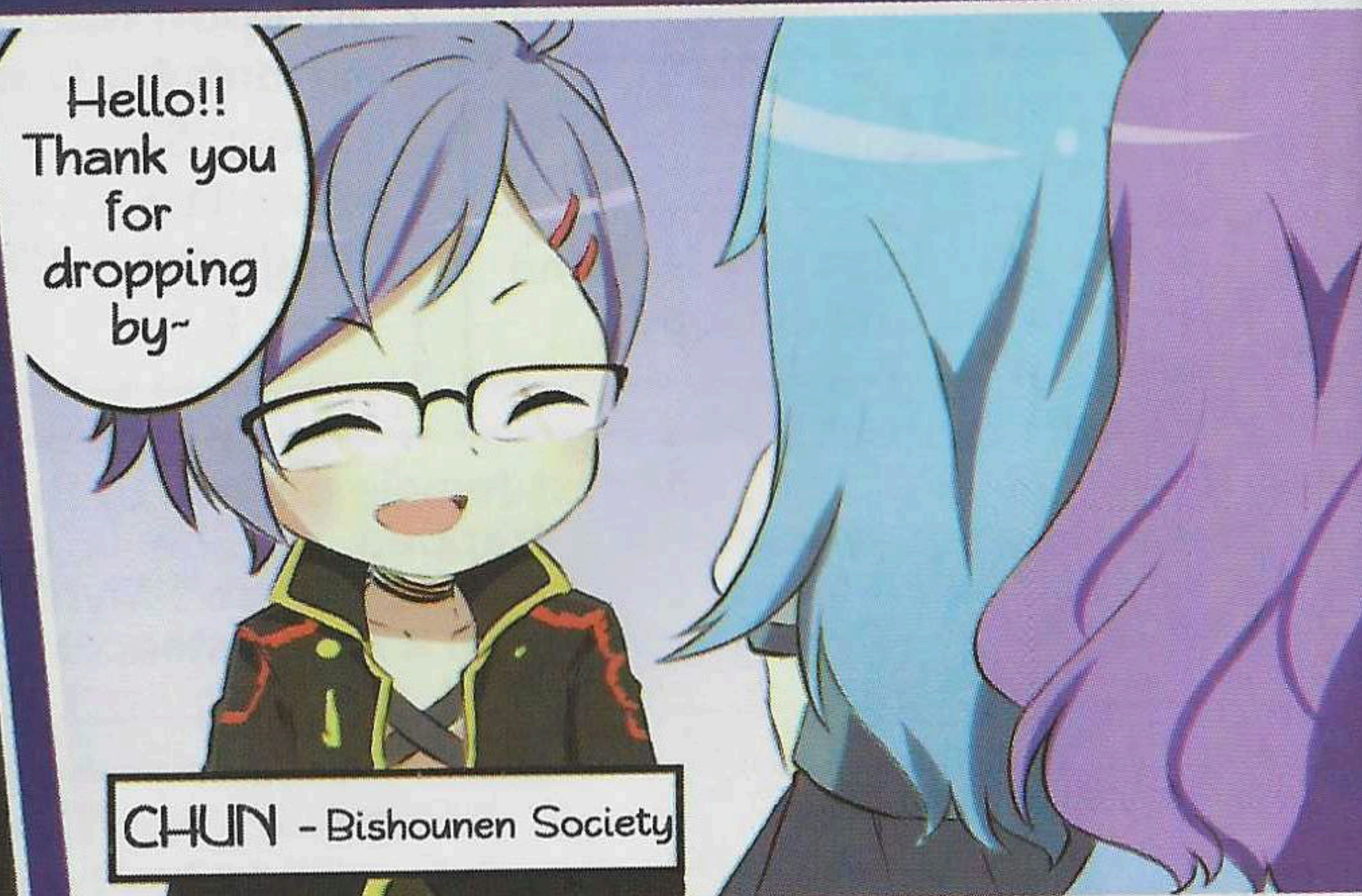


The magazine  
signing of Bishounen  
Society will be  
start now.  
Please proceed at  
the right side of the  
stage to meet  
them~



NARU - Event Host

Hello!!  
Thank you  
for dropping  
by~



CHUN - Bishounen Society

Hmmm....  
Those two  
girls in line  
look very  
familiar...



I knew it.

FINALLY!!  
I got my  
Otaku Asia  
Issue #31  
signed by  
Chun-sama~  
plus the  
poster~



Elaine...  
Let's  
hurry up.  
I feel like  
someone is  
watching  
us.



Xander!!  
Don't look  
at us  
like that!  
We-we're  
just  
passing  
by!!

SIP~



Ahh..  
This  
lemonade  
is really  
good

The End?

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# #THROWBACK

by Reikisha

Wacky High School Days

## School Rumble スクールランブル

Meet **Kenji Harima**, a tough-looking juvenile delinquent with a heart of gold, but the "heart of gold" part only happens whenever he's in the presence of a certain someone. His apple of the eye is a childish high school girl named **Tenma Tsukamoto**, who happens to have a crush on the enigmatic **Ooji Karasuma**. As long as both Harima and Tsukamoto couldn't find the courage to confess their feelings towards the person they like, a series of misunderstandings will always happen around them.



Will Harima finally man up and convey his feelings to Tsukamoto? Will Tsukamoto ever get noticed by Karasuma? Or will this one-sided love triangle continue until they give up and accept the harsh reality that they are not meant to be?

**School Rumble** was romantic comedy school life anime based from the manga created by **Jin Kobayashi**. The series' first season had a total of 26 episodes that aired from October 2004 to March 2005, following by another 26 episodes from season 2 from April to September 2006, and a 2-episode OVA which was technically the third season of School Rumble was aired in 2008 and 2009.

Otafans who are at the 18-21+ age bracket this year had first seen School Rumble on

Hero TV back in mid-2004 to 2005. The theme of the anime was just right for us because we were also high school students at the time. We were able to relate to the characters since the situations they find themselves and somehow ended up cheering for their budding love-lives along the way. School Rumble was also one of the few shows in Philippine TV that's surprisingly funnier in the Filipino dub compared to the original Japanese, much like the anime shows aired on local channels during the 90's.

Still wearing that nostalgia hat? If you are, then you better don't stop there! Take this chance to binge-watch all 54 episodes of School Rumble again while cheering for Harima x Yakumo.



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